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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 September Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat 'Press Statement' to AL-WATAN *[28 Sep]* 2
PLO's Al-Wazir Discusses Arab Ties, Camps *[AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 24 Sep]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Messaadia Meets Soviet Delegation Leader 5
Libyan Industry Secretary Begins Visit *[JANA]* 5
Committees Formed *[Tripoli TV]* 5
Tunisian Foreign Affairs Official Continues Talks *[Tunis]* 5
Tunisia's Baccouche Arrives from Libya for Talks 6

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid on Shultz Visit, Mideast Peace 6
Al-Baz Statement on Arab Issues, Shultz Visit 6
Zambia's Kaunda Makes Stopover, Meets Mubarak 6
Chinese Electric Power Minister Arrives 30 Sep 6
Archbishop of Canterbury Arrives in Cairo 7

Libya

JANA Scores Weinberger Cairo Statement 7
'Text' of 24-25 Sep Al-Qadhdhafi Interview 7
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Saudi Charge, Note 11

Sudan

Economic Cooperation Talks With Libyans Continue *[JANA]* 11
Libyan Armed Forces Chief Visits Hero's Tomb *[JANA]* 11
Party Leader Predicts Coalition Failure 12
Ugandan Envoy Arrives With Message for Al-Mahdi 12

Tunisia

New Culture Minister, Party Leader Named 12

Western Sahara

Information Minister Holds Paris News Conference *[APS]* 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

PDRY

Al-'Attas Issues New Price Law 28 Sep 13

Saudi Arabia

'Text' of Foreign Minister's UN Address 13
Iran Allegations on Mecca Corpses Denied 15
Iran Charge of Spying Equipment Denied 16
Air Landing of Israeli Businessman Denied 16
Jordan's King Husayn Arrives 29 Sep 16
Met by King Fahd 16
Meets With King Fahd *[Amman]* 16
Arab League Head Meets King Fahd, Departs 17

United Arab Emirates

King Husayn Arrives in Abu Dhabi 29 Sep 17
Meets With President *[Amman]* 17
Ends Talks, Departs 29 Sep 17

IRAQ

'Aziz Talks With Shultz, Other Counterparts 18
Defense Minister Confers With SFRY Team 18
Israeli Intelligence Men Invited To Visit Iran 18
Further on Gulf War Combat Operations 18
Fighting in North Denied 18
Communique No 2,850 18
Communique No 2,851 19
Shelling of Civilians Denied 19
Al-Zubayr, Basra Shelled 20

ISRAEL

Peres Accuses Soviets of Blocking Peace Bid 21
Peres-Wu Meeting 'Unofficially Confirmed' 21
Shamir Comments on Upcoming Shultz Visit 21
Shamir Aide on PRC Meeting, Shultz Visit 22
Rabin: Syria, Iraq Supplied With Inferior Mig's 22
Shamir Interviewed on Peace Goals, Conference 23
SFRY Group Arrives for Talks on Direct Flights 25
Airline Granted License *[THE JERUSALEM POST 29 Sep]* 25
6-Month Public Sector Wage Agreement Signed 26
Jordan Working for West Bank Autonomy Council *[AL HAMISHMAR 28 Sep]* 26
West Bank 'Confederative Party' Announced *[DAVAR 27 Sep]* 26
Government Rejects Decision *[HA'ARETZ 29 Sep]* 26
Bethlehem Mayor Frayj Reviews West Bank Events 27

LEBANON

Al-Jumayyil Meets Shultz, USSR's Petrovskiy 29
Libyan Delegation Inspects Palestinian Camps *[RFL]* 29
Phalangists React to Party Resignations *[VOL]* 29
PSP Reaction to Al-Jumayyil UN Statements *[VOM]* 30
Al-Huss Comments on Remarks 30
'Fierce Clashes' in Shatila Camp 29 Sep 31
Fire Exchanged 30 Sep *[RFL]* 31
Resistance Attacks Israeli, Lahd Positions 31
Israeli Warplanes Fly Over East Sidon 29 Sep 31

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Diplomats Report Recent Mujahidin Activities *[AFP]* 32
1,000 Troops Defect; CP Official Killed *[IRNA]* 32

India

Troops Clash With Pakistani Forces 32
Defense Ministry Spokesman on Attack 33
Punjab 'Terrorists' Kill 9, Wound 4 34

Iran

Greek Ship Hit by a 'Unidentified' Craft 34
Velayati Letter to Security Council 34
Majlis Speaker, Khamene'i on Gulf Situation 34
London Daily on Reactions to U.S. Attack *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Sep]* 35
Spokesman Comments on Weinberger's Remarks 35
Tehran Warns of 'Right To Retaliate' 36
Tehran on Dangers of U.S. Strategy in Gulf 36
Indian Muslims Condemn U.S. Moves in Gulf 37
Meeting of Friday Imams Continues in Qom 37
Montazeri Delivers Speech 37
Meshkini Addresses Friday Imams 40
Seminar Passes Resolution 41
Khomeyni Meets Khamene'i, Friday Imams 41
Tehran Reports Interview With SAIRI Chairman 41
Mobilization Forces Mark War Week Ceremonies 42
Reporters Shown 'Liberated Areas' in Al-Faw 43
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 43
IRGC Artillery Shells Basra 43
Communique No 2,974 43
Baghdad TV Station Blown Up 'Last Month' 43
Iraqi Planes Bomb Bakhtaran, Lorestan 44

Pakistan

Junejo Briefs Newsmen on New York Talks 44
Further on News Conference 44
Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for Beijing 45

30 September Middle East and South Asia Review

LD301310 [Editorial report]

Gulf Conflict

Military Developments—A Greek tanker was attacked by an unidentified vessel about 50 miles off the Abu Dhabi coast around midnight 29 September, Athens radio announced, adding that the ship sustained minor damage and no casualties. The radio cited news agency reports that the attacking vessel "appears to be Iranian."

Iraq had earlier announced raids by "scores" of its aircraft on an Iranian military equipment factory in the Tehran area and on the Neka power station, northeast of the Iranian capital. A communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio said the attacks caused "explosions and fires" in the factory and dealt a "devastating blow" to the power station, which supplies Tehran with electricity. Iraqi warplanes also hit another maritime target in the Gulf, an oil pumping station, and an Iranian military camp, the communique added. Tehran radio acknowledged that an "industrial labor unit" in the Tehran suburbs was damaged in an air raid, and also noted that Iraqi raids in Bakhtaran and Lorestan Provinces caused casualties.

Regarding the activities of Iranian-backed Iraqi rebels, IRNA cited a report that the "Mecca Martyrs" group of Iraqi revolutionaries were responsible for a recent attack on Ba'th Party officials at a meeting in Ba'qubah. The group also set fire to a gas complex on the Mosul-Baghdad highway, the report claimed.

Iran on U.S. 'Aggression'—Tehran radio broadcast a letter to the UN Security Council from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who called on the Council to condemn the U.S. "aggression" against the "Iran-Ajr" and to take measures to end such "criminal" acts. Iran has no choice but to look for an "appropriate and effective response" to the U.S. action, Velayati contended. In response to remarks made by the U.S. secretary of defense in Bahrain, a Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by the radio asserted that Caspar Weinberger's remarks on the possibility of further U.S. attacks against Iranian vessels are a clear indication of the "adventurist nature of the clique ruling the United States."

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told Friday imams in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio that "we face many difficulties, a mountain of difficulties." Khomeyni continued in a similar tone that unity and persistence to "avoid opposing one another" are of paramount importance. In discussing the points made in a Koranic verse, Khomeyni said, "I do not have the energy to explain them." He added in speaking of the inevitability of death, "I will depart first, and you will follow later."

Inter-Arab Affairs

In preparation for an 8 November Arab summit in Amman, Jordanian King Husayn and Saudi King Fahd held 2 hours of consultations during which they discussed "priority issues" regarding the Arab situation and regional developments, Amman radio reported. The Jordanian monarch arrived from Abu Dhabi where he and UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan made a "comprehensive assessment" of Arab concerns, reviewed the situation in the Gulf, and exchanged opinions on questions related to the convening of the Arab summit, WAKH reported.

Libya

Air Force—Citing "highly placed" Arab sources, MENA reported that Syria recently sent 40 pilots to Libya at the "urgent" request of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The pilots are now based at Baninah and are flying reconnaissance flights over Chad, the sources added. The Egyptian agency also cited a Cairo press report that a Libyan L-39 aircraft recently disappeared after taking off from a base in southern Libya. Quoting "Libyan military sources," *Al-Akhbar* added that "discontent" among Libyan pilots may have caused the L-39 crewmen to flee the country.

Fahd Message—Col al-Qadhdhafi received the Saudi charge d'affaires to Libya who delivered a message from King Fahd, JANA reported.

Egypt

In remarks reported by MENA, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid declared that a scheduled tour of the Mideast by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is a "positive step" that evinces the U.S. Administration's interest in being an "active partner" in the peace process. The Egyptian official also complimented the United States for its "clear" stand supporting an international conference on the Mideast.

Israel

The body of an IDF soldier was found in Western Galilee 28 September, IDF radio announced, adding that there were "signs of violence" on the body and an investigation is under way to determine the cause of death.

In another development, Jerusalem radio reported that a military court indicted an Arab from Tulkarm on charges of plotting a car bomb attack on government offices in Jerusalem. The man is accused of acting on orders from the "Islamic Jihad wing of the PLO."

Lebanon

In a statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio at the end of an extraordinary meeting, the Phalangist Party Political Bureau announced its acceptance of Charles Dahdah's resignation as party secretary general, but it urged Joseph Abu Khalil to reconsider his resignation from the Political Bureau. Munir al-Haj was appointed secretary general in place of Dahdah.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat 'Press Statement' to AL-WATAN

JN300851 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
28 Sep 87 p 22

[Raja Talab dispatch from Sanaa]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that he would not agree to Palestinian representation at an international conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. He attributed this refusal to Jordan's suspension of coordination with the PLO and to the freezing of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

In a press statement to *Al-Watan*, 'Arafat stressed that the decision to convene an international conference is solely in the hands of the United States and the Soviet Union, despite the importance of the other conflicting parties.

He described differences between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres over an international conference as formal differences intended to gain time and realize private partisan gains for each of them.

Referring to the recent meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Israeli counterpart Peres at the United Nations, 'Arafat said that Shevardnadze had talked to Peres about the question of implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 242 and a withdrawal from the occupied territories. They also discussed the subject of realizing the Palestinian people's national rights, as well as Palestinian representation at an international conference, stipulating that the representation should be decided by the PLO, as it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat added: Shevardnadze reiterated to Peres the Soviet stand on a formula for an international conference; namely, that the conference should be held under UN auspices and attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO in an independent delegation.

'Arafat predicted that an international conference will be held but did not specify when, pointing out that meetings such as the one between Peres and Shevardnadze would facilitate the holding of an international conference.

Commenting on the Israeli condition that there should be direct negotiations, 'Arafat said: I do not believe that sitting at one negotiating table is considered indirect negotiations. He added: Such conditions are only an escape.

Regarding relations with Israeli democratic forces, 'Arafat said: A 1974 PNC resolution calls for opening dialogue with Israeli democratic forces which believe in the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of an independent state under PLO leadership. He added: The first resolution in this regard was adopted at the PNC session held in Cairo that year. The subsequent PNC sessions, the latest of which was held in Algiers last April, repeated that resolution.

Asked about his meeting with Israeli Knesset members in Geneva, 'Arafat told *Al-Watan*: I met with four parliamentarians from the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality. Referring to Charlie Biton's story, he said: Biton asked if I wanted to send a message to Shamir. I told him: It seems that you have forgotten that I am chairman of the PLO. Moreover, are you authorized to convey a message from me to him? 'Arafat emphasized that this is all that had happened and nothing else.

Asked whether he had discussed the question of opening Palestinian offices in Cairo with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, 'Arafat said: I have not discussed this matter at all with Mubarak. He added that relations with Egypt are not a matter of offices but are much larger than that. He affirmed that relations with Egypt have become as good as they were in the past, indicating that the summer cloud which had overshadowed relations between the PLO and Egypt has now dissipated.

Commenting on relations with Jordan, 'Arafat noted that they are good. He added that Muhammad Milhim and Brigadier General 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya are in Amman pursuing the development of these relations. He also spoke of the recent visit to Jordan by his political adviser, Hani al-Hasan, which he said was proof of the positive development of these relations.

Asked about the emergency Arab summit and its agenda and arrangements, he said that the foreign ministers had agreed to confine the agenda to one topic; namely, the Gulf war. King Fahd then called for discussing two other issues: the Palestinian question and the situation in Lebanon. He added that these three subjects will be submitted to the emergency summit, pointing out that the PLO delegation to the summit has prepared a full working plan that will be submitted to the summit.

'Arafat said that most likely the subject of restoration of relations with Egypt will be proposed as a topic on the emergency summit agenda, but it is expected that some will oppose this on the pretext that it is an extraordinary summit held to discuss more important issues.

Regarding the security situation of the Palestinian revolution in southern Lebanon, 'Arafat disclosed that the PLO has received confirmed reports that Israel has prepared a hit list for the assassination of 10 Palestinian leaders. He added that the Mossad has actually started to follow this list by assassinating Husayn al-Haybi and Colonel Rasim al-Ghul. He continued: I warned the military command in Lebanon and said that we should be cautious because the information is correct and valid.

He also referred to the latest two attempts to assassinate Abu 'Ali Shahin and Salah Shadid. 'Arafat stressed Jamal Salman's involvement in the assassination of some Fatah cadres, but did not say if the latter was mobilized to work for Mossad.

Concerning the agreement with the Lebanese Unification and Liberation Front to settle the camps crisis, 'Arafat said: The Amal Movement has so far not abided by anything. He pointed out, however, that during its recent meeting in Baghdad the PLO had decided to deal seriously with this issue. He stressed that the revolution will implement what was endorsed in the agreement with regard to withdrawal from east Sidon if the Amal Movement abides by the implementation of the first stage of the agreement; namely, lifting the camps siege and beginning the construction process.

'Arafat expected a major Israeli offensive against the south during the coming days, but pointed out that Israeli calculations, which are based on cutting losses, have been delaying this offensive.

With regard to the situation in the occupied territory, 'Arafat challenged those who are creating alternatives to the PLO by saying that the masses there are completely rallying around their historic leadership, the PLO, and that the masses in the occupied territory will only look for another representative if they are dissastisfied with the PLO.

Asked about his expectations regarding the situation in the Gulf following the recent Iranian escalations, 'Arafat said that he had expected the Iranians to reject UN Security Council Resolution 598. He also expected Iran to launch a major attack on Iraq from an area north of Basra between 7 and 15 October which coincides with an important religious occasion called "the anniversary of the return of the head;" namely, the head of Al-Husayn. He stressed that the emergency Arab summit will be primarily responsible for ending this destructive war.

'Arafat denied recent reports that he had met with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Syrian Ba'th Party, in Sanaa.

PLO's Al-Wazir Discusses Arab Ties, Camps

JN281411 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 24 Sep 87 p 14

["Text" of interview with Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, by Basimah Nafadi; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Nafadi] It has been noted that there have been increasing military operations in the occupied territories. Does this mean a strong return to the military option? Can we say that unifying the Palestinian factions within the PLO, particularly after the recent PNC, has helped to intensify military operations?

[Al-Wazir] [Passage omitted] Armed struggle is the first and basic option of the Palestinian revolution in facing aggression and confronting the forces of occupation. This struggle will not stop as long as the occupation and usurpation of the homeland continues. The Palestinian revolution may undertake political activity according to political developments in the international arena, but nobody should think that such activity means a political settlement or solution. There will be no political solution of our issue unless the balance of power in the Arab nation's arena is changed in such a manner that our enemy realizes that the objective circumstances, including the new balance of power, force it to accept a political solution. This is still far from the case. [Passage omitted]

[Nafadi] You have always been close to Palestinian-Syrian relations. You even chaired a committee entrusted with working on talks with Damascus after the [Algiers] PNC session. Would you talk to us about the results of attempts to normalize these relations, especially since the 4-month period has actually passed?

[Al-Wazir] [Passage omitted] We have sent many messages through Arab and friendly channels and through Palestinian sides in agreement with the Syrian leadership to explain the Palestinian leadership's stand and eagerness to normalize Palestinian-Syrian relations and begin a new chapter. This was done because the existing and constant danger posed by our enemies is greater than any reasons which may be used as a pretext to continue disagreement and conflict, which exhausts our energy and diverts us from the main objective. We have affirmed several times that our continuous contacts through various channels seeking a meeting and normal relations are not a matter of overzealousness or begging. They stem from a profound feeling of the pan-Arab need to confront the enemy that lies in wait for our nation and wants to humiliate it. What must be explained is the Syrian stand, which continues to close all doors to any serious move to hold a genuine, responsible dialogue on joint issues with a sense of national and pan-Arab responsibility.

[Nafadi] You have paid several visits to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, whether within the framework of bilateral relations which have seen improvement and the return of the PLO representative to Tripoli or within the framework of what is being said about Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's efforts to reunify the remainder of the Palestinian factions. Would you talk to us about these visits?

[Al-Wazir] We in the Palestinian revolution are eager to rebuild fraternal Palestinian-Libyan relations on a clear basis, bypassing past experience. This was discussed with brother Col al-Qadhdhafi at several meetings. The practical step by the Libyan leadership and Brother al-Qadhdhafi was to exert efforts alongside Algeria to overcome obstacles during the [Palestinian] dialogue, convene the 18th PNC session with the participation of most Palestinian factions, and take steps to reunify the

factions within the PLO. After the PNC session, many leadership meetings were held to rebuild brotherly relations. These relations are developing step by step on a practical level.

The PLO office in Tripoli has resumed its normal activities. PLO representative Brother Khattab arrived in Tripoli several weeks ago. He has continued his task of representing the PLO and continuing to open areas promoting relations. My visit was within the framework of bilateral relations and means to consolidate them.

Libya is continuing to work with other PNSF factions that did not join the last PNC session in an attempt to unify their stands, because they have different opinions about returning to the PLO. They were scheduled to respond regarding the unity of their stands on 3 September. However, they were given another opportunity because they did not reach agreement.

[Nafadi] There are attempts by the Zionist entity to resume its relations with Eastern bloc countries and to achieve a rapprochement with them, headed by the Soviet Union. Did you raise this subject during your continuous meetings with the leaders of those countries, especially Moscow?

[Al-Wazir] We trust the stands of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries in supporting Palestinian rights, our legitimate national rights, and our people's just struggle for self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of an independent state. These stands were clearly manifested in political fields and international forums. [Passage omitted]

[Nafadi] What is the latest on the camps war and Amal's blueprint to end the differences and fighting that have persisted since the Palestinian [fighters'] departure from Lebanon? Is there anything new regarding the PLO-Amal agreement after the leadership welcomed it? [Passage omitted]

[Al-Wazir] When Brother Nabih Birri announced his initiative, the PLO was responsive, declaring it was prepared to hold immediate contacts. Meetings with Amal and the Unification and Liberation Front got under way in Sidon and Beirut to sort out the problems. We sought to rehabilitate the devastated camps, defend the safety and security of their inhabitants, free them from anxiety and continuous threats, and lift the siege on them. This was to build a fraternal relationship between the camps and nationalist and Islamic forces and adjacent Lebanese districts and to promote a renewal of camaraderie and militant ties in the face of the ongoing Israeli aggression threatening all of Lebanon.

It is hoped these contacts will produce practical steps compatible with a concern on the part of all parties to put the past behind us, turn over a new leaf, and then move toward future relations characterized by amity and brotherhood.

[Nafadi] How are Palestinian-Egyptian relations?

[Al-Wazir] The Palestinian revolution is constantly aware of the importance of Palestinian-Egyptian ties in terms of the past, present, and future. The Palestinian revolution's recognition of Egypt's historical role and the sacrifices its Army and people have made is something that the Palestinian leadership has always taken care to mention publicly and that Palestinians everywhere take pride in. [Passage omitted]

We are anxious to keep this relationship going, despite the differences that arose after the last PNC session in Algiers due to some erroneous information that misrepresented the discussions of the PNC and its committees. This misinformation led to a hasty decision to close the PLO offices and a concomitant unjust campaign by the Egyptian press against the PLO. Afterwards the meetings between Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and President Mubarak closed this unhappy chapter that pleased no one in Egypt or Palestine. There are many issues relating to the treatment of Palestinians in Egypt that we hope will be handled in a pan-Arab, brotherly, and responsible spirit. [Passage omitted]

[Nafadi] Do you see an international conference being convened? Or do you believe all this talk about the conference is designed to lull Arab countries and the PLO?

[Al-Wazir] There is a multisided movement toward the international conference, each party moving according to its own rules and aims. The Arab and Palestinian side has its own perspective of the conference, a good part of which is shared by the Soviet Union, the socialist bloc, the friendly countries in the Nonaligned Movement, and the ICO and OAU summits, as well as quite a few members of the United Nations. The thrust of this perspective is that the international conference—grouping the five permanent UN Security Council members and the parties to the dispute, including the PLO—must be invested with the power to arbitrate, decide, and intefere to settle whatever differences arise among the participants. [Passage omitted]

Algeria

Fatah's Al-Wazir

LD292337 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the FLN, received Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], member of the Fatah Movement's Central Committee and deputy commander of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, at his office today. The talks dealt with the Palestinian situation, particularly in Lebanon, as well as Arab issues and the upcoming Arab summit.

Abu Jihad, member of the Fatah Movement's Central Committee and deputy commander of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, made the following statement after the meeting:

[Begin Al-Wazir recording] Undoubtedly, every Palestinian-Algerian meeting constitutes an invigoration of the Palestinian and Arab causes. The Palestinian revolution has continuously relied upon the support of our brethren in Algeria. It has also relied on Algeria's unchanging stance, that is, the unceasing harmony and support of the president, government, party, and people. This historic stance shows the cohesion between the Algerian revolution and the Palestinian revolution. As a result, a fraternal atmosphere has always prevailed at meetings with our brother the president and brother officials, whenever there is a discussion concerning the latest developments in the Palestinian cause or the Arab scene. The discussions have always been objective in following up developments, particularly now with the challenges facing the Palestinian cause. The upcoming Arab summit will also have to deal with a number of challenges, such as the Gulf war, which is a hemorrhage afflicting our Arab life. This hemorrhage must be discussed and an Arab stance adopted to end it by every means. The Palestinian cause has always been a major issue at all levels and in all meetings. These causes have always been interconnected. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Messaadia Meets Soviet Delegation Leader

LD300431 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Political Bureau member and head of the party Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, received the Soviet delegation led by Mr. Trushin, first deputy minister of internal affairs, at party headquarters today. The meeting was an opportunity to review the very good relations between the two parties and ties of cooperation in certain fields. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the level of bilateral relations and the outcome of the Soviet economic delegation's recent visit to Algeria.

Libyan Industry Secretary Begins Visit

LD291858 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Algiers, 29 Sep (JANA)—Dr Ahmad Fathi ibn Shatwan, secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry, and the members of his delegation arrived in Algiers this afternoon. Dr Fathi ibn Shatwan was received at Houari Boumedienne Airport by Brother Faysal Boudraa, Algerian minister of heavy industry, and a number of ministry officials. The brother secretary of the General People's Committee and his delegation, which includes a number of industrial experts and technicians, will hold several meetings with the minister of heavy industry and other officials representing Algeria's industrial sector. This visit is one of the ongoing contacts aimed at strengthening and promoting fraternal cooperation and achieving integration in all aspects of unification between the two fraternal countries.

Committees Formed

LD292335 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Libyan Arab-Algerian meetings began this evening at the Ministry of Heavy Industry in Algiers. The opening session was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry; Brother Faysal Boudraa, Algerian minister of heavy industry; and a number of experts and technicians from the industrial and energy sectors of the two fraternal countries.

Two committees were formed during the meeting, one for heavy industry and energy and the other for light industry. They will examine the establishment and unification of joint industries to implement the measures agreed on at the meetings of the General People's Committee and the Council of Ministers in fraternal Algeria.

Tunisian Foreign Affairs Official Continues Talks

LD300414 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Taieb Sahbani, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Ismail Hamdani, secretary general at the Algerian Foreign Ministry, chaired a working session in Algiers yesterday to follow up the two countries' relations and cooperation in the political field.

Taieb Sahbani also met yesterday afteroon with Abdelhamid Brahimi, prime minister; Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, official in charge of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat; and El Hadi Khdiri, minister of interior and localities. The talks emphasized the development of Tunisian-Algerian relations, as well as ways to bolster them within the framework of the Treaty of Fraternity and Concord signed in March 1983 by Presidents Habib Bourguiba and Chadli Bendjedid. Mohamed Cherif Messaadia and Taieb Sahbani

reviewed the strong relations between the FLN and the Socialist Destourian Party, stressing the development of consultations and visits between the two parties.

Tunisia's Baccouche Arrives from Libya for Talks
LD292343 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 29 Sep 87

[text] The Tunisian social affairs minister arrived this afternoon from Tripoli for an official visit to Algeria. Hedi Baccouche is carrying a message from President Bourguiba to President Chadli Bendjedid. Baccouche said on arrival that his mission is within the framework of regular consultations between Algeria and Tunisia. As for Tunisian-Libyan relations, he said, and I quote: There are important developments in the region that benefit countries in the area, and these developments are conducive to confidence and a calm atmosphere.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid on Shultz Visit, Mideast Peace
NC300707 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] United Nations, 30 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the visit to the Middle East in October by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz represents a positive step by the United States and is an indication of the U.S. Administration's continued interest in remaining an active partner in the peace process.

Following his meeting with Shultz last night, the Egyptian foreign minister told Egyptian journalists that he had conveyed to the U.S. secretary of state Egypt's support for the U.S. stand of defending freedom of shipping in the Arab Gulf and its desire to implement the UN Security Council resolution calling for an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict, with the two sides meeting at a negotiating table.

Commenting on the U.S. stand on an international conference for peace in the Middle East, 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that it is clear. He said that he views the change of U.S. policy toward support for an international peace conference as positive.

Al-Baz Statement on Arab Issues, Shultz Visit
NC291929 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has expressed Egyptian satisfaction with the decision to hold an extraordinary Arab summit conference in Amman on 8 November. In a statement today, Dr al-Baz said that Egypt is also satisfied with the intensive and continuous activity to end the Iraq-Iran war. He stressed the need to end that war because, as he pointed out, if it were to continue it would spread to other countries in the region. Dr al-Baz added that Egypt believes that UN Security Council Resolution No 598 represents a good opportunity to achieve such an end.

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the Middle East, Dr Usamah al-Baz said that it is clear the Americans want to be informed about the latest developments in the region and the positions which the various parties hold before embarking upon a second round of negotiations between the two superpowers. He noted that Shultz' tour will include Cairo, Amman, and Israel.

Referring to Egypt's efforts to resolve current African crises, Dr Usamah al-Baz said that it is not necessary for such efforts to take the form of mediation. He noted that Egypt consults with various countries, learns all viewpoints, and then seeks to bring the views of the concerned parties closer together.

Zambia's Kaunda Makes Stopover, Meets Mubarak
NC291404 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a talk this afternoon with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, who was on a stopover at Cairo International Airport. President Kaunda arrived in Cairo at 1430. President Mubarak received the distinguished African guest at the airport. Also present were Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Kalgua Kangua, the Zambian ambassador to Cairo; and Erno Simonyi, the Hungarian ambassador to Cairo.

Chinese Electric Power Minister Arrives 30 Sep
NC301024 Cairo MENA in English 0750 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Cairo, Sep 30 (MENA)—Chinese Minister of Water Resources and Electric Power Qian Zhengying arrived here early today for a five-day official visit. Mrs. Qian will attend during the visit meetings of the annual session on Egyptian-Chinese joint cooperation in the domains of power.

Minister of Electricity Engineer Mahir Abazah, who was on hand at the airport to receive the Chinese guest, said that he would discuss with Mrs. Qian cooperation between the two countries particularly in the manufacture of electric insulators and the increase of training missions to China for Egyptian workers and engineers on the operation and maintenance of electricity plants. The Chinese minister will visit electricity stations in Cairo, 'Ataqah and Suez.

Archbishop of Canterbury Arrives in Cairo

NC282254 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—Dr Robert Runcie, the archbishop of Canterbury and primate of all England, arrived in Cairo this evening for a 1-week visit to Egypt at the invitation of the Anglican Church in Egypt. Dr Runcie is expected to hold talks with ranking Egyptian officials, including Pope Shanudah, head of the Coptic Orthodox Church; Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, the Cairo governor; His Eminence Shaykh Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq, the grand shaykh of Al-Azhar; and Dr 'Abd al-Fattah Husayn al-Shaykh, president of Al-Azhar University.

The talks will deal with Egyptian-British relations regarding matters of religion. Dr Runcie was received at the airport by the British ambassador in Cairo and Ambassador Isma'il Mubarak, head of the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry.

Libya

JANA Scores Weinberger Cairo Statement

LD291623 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Sep (JANA)—Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. secretary of war, met with the president of the Egyptian regime yesterday at the conclusion of a suspicious visit that included a number of states in the Arabian Gulf.

News agencies have quoted Weinberger, in a statement he made in the Egyptian capital, that the rulers of the countries included in his visit appreciated the U.S. military role in the Arabian Gulf. He then added: "They expressed the desire to guarantee the U.S. Navy's military force in the Gulf."

He noted that his meeting with the head of the Egyptian regime was fruitful as usual.

JANA's editor of Arab affairs had the following comment on this: "It has become obvious that the U.S. secretary of war has completed an inspection tour of the U.S. colonies in the region and that those who are haughty in front of others, as if they are great leaders and sultans, soon become like dwarfs bowing before their master.

"Weinberger, who is flexing his muscles at this show to demonstrate the U.S. might in the Gulf and to threaten Iran, is not capable of doing anything; Roosevelt's stick, which he is waving anew, has become fragile, eaten away by termites, and breaks in the face of its users before it reaches its target."

The editor adds: "America is the archenemy of the Arab nation, the Muslim peoples, and the peoples of the world who are aspiring for freedom. Its secretary of war, who is now desecrating Arab territories, is a war criminal and a well-known terrorist whose hands are stained with the blood of Arabs from Palestine, Lebanon, the Jamahiriyah, and many other places in the world.

"By receiving the U.S. secretary of war on a day that coincided with the anniversary of Jamal 'Abd al-Naser's death, the Egyptian regime has insulted the soul of this nationalist hero and insulted the land of Egypt which was, in his era, forbidden to the United States. Now it has become as submissive a colony as Berlin was after World War II when domination, protectorates, and dependency were imposed upon it."

'Text' of 24-25 Sep Al-Qadhdhafi Interview

JN291728 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 28 Sep 87 pp 1, 15, 17

["Text" of interview with leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Hind 'Amr, the *Al-Khalij* Tripoli correspondent, on 24 and 25 September in Tripoli]

[Text] *Al-Khalij*: The world is preoccupied by Security Council Resolution No 598 on the Iraq-Iran war. Now, the foreign ministers of the permanent Security Council members are meeting to discuss the implementation of this resolution. What is Libya's stand on the resolution?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: When I was acquainted with the resolution, I did not care much about its formulation. I concentrated on the essence of the issue. My stand on the war is clear: It must end. Since the beginning, my stand has not changed. I visited Iraq after the Iranian revolution. The Iranians contacted me and informed me that Iraq had carried out air raids on the border. During my visit to Iraq, I met with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Vice President Saddam Husayn. I informed them of Iran's protest and inconvenience. Al-Bakr explained to me that what had occurred was a pursuit of Kurds. He added that they had informed the Iranians that Iraq was embarking on defensive aerial operations in that area and that these operations were not aimed against Iran.

This is how the conflict began between the two countries. From the start, we have been working to keep the regional situation from deteriorating. The fact is that I had opposed backing the Arabs who are against the Iranian revolution. On the other hand, I supported the Arabs in combating the shah when his bad and expansionist intentions in the Gulf became clear and because he was a basic regional ally of Israel, as well as an American agent. We were the only Arab country that the shah could not bribe.

How can we fight a revolution which is directed against the United States and which is an ally of the Arabs, placing all its impact in support of the Palestinian issue? I instigated the revolution against the shah. The leaders

of the Iranian revolution listened to my speeches while they were in prison. They told me this. Many of them said: We did not listen to Khomeyni; while we were in prison we listened to you address the Iranian people and urge them to revolt.

At the same time, Iraq is a sisterly Arab country, and we cannot possibly fight an Arab state. A country like Iraq is counted among the revolutionary, unionist, and progressive states. It cannot be classified as reactionary. We therefore cannot fight against Iraq. Our position on the war has been controversial and subject to many interpretations. Our position is, however, unchanged. Indeed, we think that the Iranian revolution's efforts should be added to Arab revolutionary efforts to liberate Palestine and to regain Arab rights. I believe, however, that there is a conspiracy against such an approach. The conspiracy is directed primarily against Iraq and the Islamic revolution. Imperialism lies behind this destructive scheme. Iraq and Iran are suffering losses equally, and the only beneficiary of all this is the enemy.

Al-Khalij: Do you believe that the two parties are inextricably involved in this war?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, yes, yes.

Al-Khalij: The issue of who started the war constitutes a large part of the efforts to end the war. How do you view this issue?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: Both Iraq and Iran have recorded the beginning of the war. Their dates for this are different. The Iraqis have presented a report which states that several explosions directed against Iraqi civilian and military targets took place. They have also claimed that Iran stood behind these explosions, including the car bomb operation near the president's motorcade. Iraq says that it carried out its first military operation in retaliation for these bombings, while Iran denies any responsibility for these explosions. The Iranians say that Iraq's military operations against the Kurds were the beginning of the war.

Al-Khalij: How does Libya view Iran's suggestion to the UN secretary general that an undeclared cease-fire take place and that a committee be established to investigate the question of who started the war, especially since you announced in your recent speech that Libya is the only country that can halt the war?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, I have sent a memorandum to the Iranian leaders, specifically to Montazeri, and his reply was positive. He said that Iran is ready to end the war but that the party responsible for starting it must be identified and that Iran must be compensated for its losses. I believe that both Iraq and Iran should be compensated. Any effort to halt the war will be seen as positive.

Al-Khalij: Who will pay the compensation?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: All the Arab countries. I believe that there will be no decisive conclusion or victory in this war. We do not have any evidence concerning who started the war. We have to condemn the aggressor and compensate the two sides regardless of the reasons that led to this conflict. This war should end and should not be repeated. We all know that no side can occupy the other side's territory. The problem should not become a second Palestinian question. We have to take action.

Al-Khalij: How can we take action in the absence of a unified Arab position? Does the problem not require a unified Arab postion?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: We have to understand that all Arabs are in danger. We face Western imperialist pressure. We face Zionist expansion from Europe. We face a black African onslaught against the Arab countries in Africa; namely, Sudan, Algeria, Libya, and Mauritania. We are being exposed to a racist onslaught at the encouragement of the United States and Europe. There is a plan to turn the Arabs into Kurds and Red Indians so that the United States can control strategic centers such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Suez Canal. They want us to be a market for their products. They want to exploit Arab revenues. They do not want us to achieve independent development. The Arabs are in danger. Regrettably, the Arab Gulf war is being exploited by forces hostile to the Arabs.

The Iranian revolution has been made a link in the conspiratorial chain against the wishes of this revolution's well-meaning brothers. It was used as a link in the chain of marching on the Arab homeland. This is part of a predetermined plan. Undoubtedly, every revolution has a counterrevolution. Certain Iranian forces maintain Zionist and imperialist contacts. The war advances these forces' interests to destroy both the Arabs and the Iranian revolution, especially militarily. However, the truly revolutionary Iranian forces, led by Montazeri and Khomeyni, are opposed to the war. They want it terminated, provided that the aggressor is punished.

Al-KhaliJ: Do you mean Irangate when you refer to the counterrevolution?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: I have stated that there are Iranian forces inside the revolution working against it. They were behind the suspect Irangate deal and are additionally fanning the flames of this war. I just hope the truly revolutionary forces in Iran will come out on top and end the war.

Al-Khalij: There has been talk and speculation about a union between Libya and Iraq. What do you have to say to this?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: This is not so much a Libyan-Iraqi unionist project as it is part of our Arab contacts with a view to establishing a pan-Arab union stretching from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the Gulf. The plan envisions the

Arab heads of state alternating the governance of the Arab homeland, with the presidency rotating every 6 months within the framework of a presidential council comprised of all the member countries' heads of state. The council would unify Arab efforts in the areas of education, industry, foreign affairs, and defense policies, etc. We have made it clear that the plan rules out interference in member states' domestic affairs. Some people have interpreted our moves as being a projected union with Iraq, given that this was the first time Iraq and Libya have been in contact since they severed ties. We asked Iraq to state its opinion on the matter. It is still a mere proposal. Incidentally, Iraq was the last Arab country to be approached on the matter.

Al-Khalij: Have you heard from other Arab countries on the proposal?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: We have officially heard from some of them. In principle there is no one who opposes unifying the Arabs. They may rest assured that they would remain in office. Indeed, each one would gain in stature since he would preside over the entire Arab homeland instead of just one state.

Al-Khalij: Can we return to Libyan-Iraqi ties, against the background of [Secretary of Foreign Liaison] Al-Talhi's recent visit to Baghdad?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: To begin with, Al-Talhi communicated Iraq's thinking with regard to the war. He then brought up the subject of reinstating relations, since Iraq had taken a hostile stand against us and severed ties. Iraq has reconsidered its position and relations are now back to normal, I believe.

Al-Khalij: Do you believe that Libya's role in ending the war will be enhanced after you receive Iraq's reply concerning the pan-Arab union project? Is there some kind of link between the two issues?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: I believe that the pan-Arab union project is a necessity on the basis of my definition of the dangers that engulf the Arabs. This is so, regardless of whether our efforts to end the war succeed or not.

Al-Khalij: Is it true that a ranking Iraqi delegation will soon visit the Jamahiriyah?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: Nothing prevents this from taking place since relations have been resumed.

Al-Khalij: Can you give us some details concerning Libya's peace plan to end the Iraq-Iran war?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: I have stated that I could end the war. The war must end regardless of the causes that led to its eruption. I insist that compensation must be paid to the two sides since they have suffered such losses. After this, one can identify which party started the war. Although I have kept abreast of the war from its very start, the information I possess does not allow me to state which party is responsible. It is very difficult indeed to specify which party is responsible for starting the war.

Al-Khalij: Are there any other Arab countries that have joined Libya's efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: There is a general consensus to end the war. However, some parties, including Arab parties, do not want this war to end since eliminating both Iraq as a military and party force and the Iranian revolution—which we view as a ray of light on the international level—serves their interests. Syria, for example, agrees with what we say and have suggested. But as I have already mentioned, there are parties that benefit from fanning the fire of this war. They do what they can to prolong it.

I believe that the two parties, Iraq and Iran, have become inextricably involved in the war. There is no reason why the war should continue. I wonder what objective there is in prolonging the conflict.

Al-Khalij: Have you exerted efforts to improve relations between Syria and Iraq?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: We are not only seeking to improve relations between Iraq and Syria but also to declare unity between the two countries. However, their viewpoints differ substantially, and both are displaying stubbornness. They do not trust each other. However, the threats we are facing dictate greater cooperation.

Al-Khalij: Is there much talk about the issue of mediation between Libya and Egypt?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: No, no, no. The dispute originally was not a Libyan-Egyptian dispute but an Arab-Egyptian dispute. Frankly, this dispute will continue so long as Egypt does not retract its recognition of the Zionist enemy. We are not against the Egyptian people but against the Egyptian regime. As long as this problem is not settled, there will be no mediations or dialogue. I would like to reaffirm this point. We are not in a dispute with Egypt. There may be a dispute with Iraq or Tunisia, for example, but not with Egypt.

Al-Khalij: But some sources claim that YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is mediating to solve the issue of the defecting Libyan pilots, extradite them, and release Egyptian detainees in Libya.

Col al-Qadhdhafi: Yes, this is reasonable. There are Libyan aircraft that were hijacked to Egypt and a number of pilots who found themselves in Egypt. They requested repatriation to their country and families. However, Egypt is holding them and wants to make them equivalent to the spies it sent to carry out the ugliest crimes against the Libyan people. These spies guided the U.S. aircraft to the positions they bombed during their savage raids on Tripoli and Banghazi. We found them

with equipment that had guided the raiding aircraft to us and we apprehended them. They will face the death penalty for treason. By the way, this is an opportunity to make everyone understand that these spies carried out a hideous crime through their participation in the raid.

Al-Khalij: But, on the other hand, do you insist on the pilots' return from Egypt?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: Keeping them in Egypt is the taking of hostages and piracy.

Al-Khalij: How far have relations between Libya and Algeria grown? And what about the unity project?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: What is between us and Algeria differs from the Arab unionist project. What is between us is a constitution that will bind us together next November. We will establish a federal state, to be declared in November, God willing. Talks are continuing with Algeria.

Al-Khalij: What about your efforts to reunify the Palestinian resistance factions?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: We were and still are for the unity of the Palestinian resistance. However, some revolutionary factions regrettably do not agree with the policy of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. They rightfully believe that Palestinian decisionmaking must be collective and not individual. They object to having the Palestinian efforts led in this manner. We support the unity of the resistance. I am doing my best to reunify all the factions on the basis of armed struggle. We agree that 'Arafat's unilateral adoption of decisions has led to all that happened. We believe that a change on the level of the Palestinian leadership will return the Palestinian effort's prestige.

Al-Khalij: I have a question in mind, although its subject has become worn. However, some still discuss it from time to time. The question concerns the front of steadfastness and confrontation. Is there a possibility of reviving it?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: By God, we have gone beyond the front by raising the project of unity with Algeria one time, and also with Syria and Yemen. We have actually gone beyond this. However, if there is need for it, we will confront; we will confront. (The colonel laughs for a long time) It is no longer with us. The front of steadfastness and confrontation was established to heal the rift in the greater Arab homeland in the past and to prevent the remainder of the Arabs from entering the Zionist cage. As for now, there is no need for the front.

Al-Khalij: What is your opinion of the proposed temporary solutions and settlements? Are they a sign of hopelessness concerning the return of the Arab right to Palestine?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: I do not think that the Zionist presence is too strong to be removed. This is because all the existing factors oppose its continuation. It is only the element of fear. This is a psychological factor governing the Arab homeland. I think and believe that removing this entity is not impossible. We can achieve this through guerrilla and popular wars, and even through a war of armies.

Al-Khalij: Jordan has decided to resume its relations with Libya, but did you not have any reaction to this?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: It is Jordan that severed these relations in the past, and it is Jordan that has resumed them. The Libyan people had staged a demonstration in Tripoli to protest the meeting involving King Husayn, President Husni Mubarak, and Reagan. As a result, Jordan severed relations, which have now been resumed. We welcome this.

Al-Khalij: Will you attend the emergency Arab summit in Amman?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: I do not know the justification for such a summit, and why should it be called an emergency summit?

We call for the convening of an Arab summit every year, but nothing of the sort takes place. They call for such an emergency summit every time. I wonder why an emergency summit was not held following the European-U.S. aggression against Libya. We were exposed to a fierce onslaught in which the Arabs' enemies participated. We still experience a dangerous situation in the south. Despite this, none of them took pains to protest or even to show interest in the problem. Why then should I, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, attend such a meeting as long as it is a meeting of heads of state? In the first place, I am not a head of state. The decision first and foremost now belongs to the Libyan masses. We may attend another summit to discuss revolutionary matters, a summit of revolutionaries. Generally speaking, had the agenda of such a summit been an ordinary one, attending would have been possible.

Al-Khalij: Does this mean that you agree with Syria on this issue?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: Yes. I agree with Syria that there is no use in attending this summit to discuss only the Gulf war. This is unreasonable. The war is not an emergency. Therefore, there is no need for an emergency summit. The war began 7 years ago. Despite the importance of this issue, I would like to see a summit that will discuss all Arab issues.

Al-Khalij: What is the secret of Libya's acceptance of Lebanese and Palestinian volunteers?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: Well, I will take this opportunity to explain this issue since we have heard many interpretations. Libya is the headquarters of the national command of the revolutionary Arab factions. Similarly, all the revolutionary factions in the world maintain offices and representatives in Libya. In accordance with their general charter, all of these factions are obliged to support one another against any aggression.

The Lebanese, Palestinian, and other fighters joined us on this basis. This is the most sound course for confronting world imperialism and its designs. We established the presence of Israeli soldiers among those who fought against us in Aozou and Tibesti. Chad repatriated the bodies of Israeli soldiers who were killed in the battles. Zairian forces also fought against us, and the commander of these forces was killed in battle. We additionally captured Egyptian military hardware from the Chadians. When we announced this, Egypt officially replied by explaining that it had sold quantities of military hardware and ammunition to Saudi Arabia, but it ignores how these weapons reached the hands of the Chadian enemy forces. These weapons were marked with the inscription of Shubra al-Khaymah industries. We later learned that Saudi Arabia had purchased them and had given them to [former Sudanese President] Numayri.

We want everyone to understand that what is currently occurring on the Libyan-Chadian border is not a war between Chad and Libya but a confrontation between Libya and the revolutionary forces on the one hand and the world imperialist forces in this region on the other.

Al-Khalij How do you envisage an end to the Chadian war?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: The Libyan and Chadian peoples have never been two different peoples. The majority of the Chadian people, who belong to the A-Mahamid tribe, are Arabs like we are. Our relations with the Chadians require only understanding among the various Chadian factions. The groups of Goukouni, Shaykh Omar, Habre, and others must reach an understanding on a single basis. Aozou is no longer the problem. The problem now is that imperialism and reactionaries are using Chad to fight Libya. All the Chadian groups I mentioned must save Chad by reaching an understanding among themselves and emerging from the era of tribalism to that of the state.

Al-Khalij: How do you assess the experience of the peoples committees after 10 years?

Col al-Qadhdhafi: This is still a new experience and we cannot yet assess it. This experience will not be restricted only to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, for the entire world will become a Jamahiriyah. We are the cornerstone of the era of the masses. We are now paying the price for proceeding on this course. The peoples committees will not become a party because they are the antithesis to parties.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Saudi Charge, Note

LD291210 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Sep, (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution today received the Saudi charge d'affaires to the Great Jamahiriyah, who delivered a written message to him from King Fahd.

Sudan

Economic Cooperation Talks With Libyans Continue

LD291512 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1417 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Sep (JANA)—Libyan Arab-Sudanese talks continued in Khartoum yesterday between the secretary of the People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport in the Great Jamahiriyah and the acting Sudanese minister of trade and finance.

Several subcommittees specializing in commercial exchanges, oil, communications, banking, and joint holding companies have been established.

In a statement to the press, the secretary for communications and maritime transport stressed the importance of rapprochement and economic cooperation in order to fulfill the aspirations and goals pursued by the Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan to achieve Arab unity. He said: "We do not see economic cooperation as the ultimate goal, but a step on the long road to comprehensive Arab unity."

The Sudanese acting minister of trade and finance praised these talks and said: "All aspects of the progress of commercial exchange have been reviewed and the establishment of a joint holding company and three joint technical committees in the fields of economy, trade, and transportation and communications has been discussed."

Libyan Armed Forces Chief Visits Hero's Tomb

LD291530 Tripoli JANA in English 1447 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Fatih [September] 29, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, has lauded the role of the Sudanese struggler Sharif Husayn Hindi.

On putting a wreath of flowers on Hindi's tomb, Colonel Jabir said that the departed Hindi was one of the honest strugglers we knew. We, Colonel Jabir added, were inspired with hope, for he believed in Arab unity, apart from the unity of the Sudanese people.

He continues that we need the struggle and effectiveness of the Sudanese people because the Arab nation faces danger now.

Without Arab unity, he adds, any Arab country will be too weak to face up to these dangers. Therefore, we have to rise to the level of those dangers through bringing about a firm unity encompassing the Arab homeland from the Gulf to the ocean to encounter the Zionist-imperialist dangers.

Meanwhile, one of the strugglers of the Sudanese Democratic Party gave a speech welcoming Colonel Jabir and expressing his wish and that of his party members to have the Arab unity realized.

Party Leader Predicts Coalition Failure

JN301134 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1032 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Sep (SUNA)—Ahmad Zayn al-'Abidin, a leader of the National Unionist Party, has predicted the failure of the third coalition between the Al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party. He said that the failure of the coalition has become routine. He added that the way out of the current crisis lies in dissolving the Constituent Assembly and forming a national government that excludes Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

In a statement to appear in tomorrow's edition of the newspaper *Al-Jaridah*, Zayn al-'Abidin denounces Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's policy and accuses him of an unwillingness to solve the problem of southern Sudan. He also says that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is behind the terrible fumbling in Sudan's foreign policy.

Ugandan Envoy Arrives With Message for Al-Mahdi

JN281147 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum Sept. 28 (SUNA)—A high-level Ugandan envoy arrived here yesterday carrying a message from President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda to Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the daily *Al-Ayyam*, published here today reported.

The message dealing with the recent talks to maintain peace in southern Sudan which took place in Uganda between President Museveni, leader of the Sudanese People Liberation Movement "SPLM" John Garang and a delegation representing the Sudanese African parties, the paper added.

The Ugandan envoy, the state minister at the Council of Ministers is expected to meet Premier al-Mahdi today to convey the message.

Tunisia

New Culture Minister, Party Leader Named

LD300342 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Prime Minister Rachid Sfar has stated that the supreme combatant and chairman of the Socialist Destourian Party appointed Abdelmale Larif as director general of the Socialist Destourian Party. He succeeds Abdelaziz Ben Dia, who was named minister of culture. Minister of Culture Zakariya Ben Moustapha will assume other important tasks.

Slaheddine Maaouiya was appointed director general of Tunisian radio and television, and Kemal Cherif was appointed director general and president of the national company for printing, press, and publications, which publishes the newspaper *La Presse*.

Western Sahara

Information Minister Holds Paris News Conference

LD270110 Algiers APS in English 1348 GMT 26 Sep 87

[Text] Sadr, September 26 (APS)—The Saharan minister of information, Ibrahim Hakim said the UN/OAU joint initiative for the settlement of the Western Sahara issue is stalled by the stubbornness of Morocco.

The Sahara minister declared in a news conference convened in Paris that he will fly to Lusaka to transmit to President Kenneth Kaunda a message from the SDAR president, Mohamed Abdelaziz on this subject. The Polisario is favourable to the quest of a political solution which would help to meet conditions for the holding of a referendum whereas Morocco sticks to its guns. "We have sent over seven missions to the UN and received the deputy secretary general," Hakim said underscoring the Polisario willingness to reach a solution within the framework of UN and OAU resolutions.

A political agreement for the organization of a referendum should be sought through negotiations between the SDAR and Morocco. No solution could be reached without such an agreement, he added. The UN secretary general efforts are stumbling over Morocco's refusal to cooperate to a rigourous implementation of the principle of selfdetermination of the Saharan people, the Saharan minister said, adding that Morocco is at grippings with economic difficulties and is only trying to break its diplomatic isolation.

The Polisario is not particularly keen on negotiating with Rabat. All it wants is that this country pulls out its troops and administration from Western Sahara so that the UN could take in charge this territory.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Issues New Price Law 28 Sep

EA291115 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and Supreme People's Council Presidium chairman, today issued the price law. The first and second articles of the law's first chapter defined the law's name and definitions. The Chapter 2 articles referred to the objectives, definition, amendments, and planning of prices. The chapter noted that the law is intended to lay down the party and government policy on prices and their implementation by fixing regulations and unified and defined principles for commodity and service prices in the Republic. Prices should reflect the necessary social cost while ensuring the acquisition of interest- and tax-free income that will make it possible to develop production and satisfy social and other requirements; to gradually pursue price standardization for the most important commodities and services in the Republic's different governorates; to use prices as an incentive to increase production and improve quality; and to link the government's policy on prices with its policies on taxation and wages.

The law's fourth article empowers the Council of Ministers, the Central Organization of Prices, the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply, and any other organ so designated by the Council of Ministers to define and amend prices in the Republic. The law also empowers the Central Organization of Prices to undertake the supervision, regulation, and direction of price control in accordance with the Council of Ministers' law.

Chapter 4's articles defined the aims of providing subsidies for prices; namely, maintaining price stability for commodities, or certain commodities, in accordance with the possibilities and available resources.

The law empowers the Council of Ministers to endorse the commodities and services that must be subsidized, the amount of subsidization, and the price of commodities after the added subsidy in accordance with proposals of the organization and board of the prices fund, based on principles and considerations. This is to include the fact that there is a need for political, economic, or social policies to protect the consumer against price fluctuations, especially fluctuations in world prices of essential commodities, and to provide the productive sectors with incentives to increase production and improve quality. These policies should also protect domestically-produced goods and raw materials against foreign competition, and encourage exports, to make them competitive in external markets.

The articles of Chapter 5 defined general and final provisions and the fact that the law becomes effective from the date of its issuance, and that this should be published in the official gazette.

Saudi Arabia

'Text' of Foreign Minister's UN Address

LD291126 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2140 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Excerpts] United Nations, 28 Sep, (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, delivered a speech tonight at the UN General Assembly's 42d session. Here is the text of his speech:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Prayers and peace be upon the most noble of messengers. Mr Chairman, I have the pleasure of congratulating you on your election as chairman of the UN General Assembly's 42d session. Your election reflects the personal position you enjoy and strengthens the role played by your country in supporting the international effort and strengthening international cooperative ties. I have no doubt that your competence will be an effective element of the UN General Assembly's ability to accomplish its work in the most favorable manner, and you are known in UN corridors as one of the organization's prominent men. [passage omitted]

Persistent aggression in violation of the UN Charter and rejecting the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions are signs of defying the charter. We must take a firm stand against this, in conformity with the UN Charter's stipulations and objectives. Any hesitation in doing so constitutes avoidance of responsibility and neglect of the most important bases of international cooperation and stability.

I am saying this, and we have abundant examples of acts of international contravention of and aggression against peoples' rights and freedom. We also have before us a long list of economic and social problems that still require wise solutions, based on the feeling of international responsibility and balanced cooperation, together with adherence to moral and legal responsibilities that we must all respect and adhere to.

Mr Chairman, the Iraq-Iran war, which is now entering its 8th year, has acquired new dimensions that threaten regional security and world peace. Developments in recent months have revealed negative indications of what a stubborn refusal to end this war could lead to and what a persistent lack of respect for international conventions and resolutions aimed at ending it could lead to.

We demand an end to this devasting war against the Iraqi and Iranian peoples for the sake of safeguarding their interests. We also demand its cessation for the sake of regional peace and stability and the vital interests of the region's countries. Those who are working to prolong the war are sacrificing the basic interests of the Iranian and Iraqi peoples and are exposing regional and world peace to untold dangers.

Iran has persisted in trying to carry its conflict to parties that are not involved in its war with Iraq, to give itself the right to attack countries that are not parties to the conflict and to also attack the interests of other countries and harm international navigation in the Gulf.

This crooked and, at the same time, grave logic is one of the principle reasons for the severe tension and instability in the Gulf. If Iran gives itself the right to strike at countries that are not parties to the war, then it is only natural for every country in the region to have the full right to exercise self-defense against aggression.

The contribution of the conflict and threats—the geographic expanse of which Iran is trying to enlarge in the Gulf region by permitting itself to attack ships of other countries not involved in the conflict—and its continued threat to the freedom of navigation in international waters have been the reason for the presence of international fleets in Gulf waters.

The Arab states unanimously asked Iran during the foreign ministers meeting in Tunis not to allow its actions to become a cause for bringing international conflicts into the region, but to work instead for peace and stability. They also called on the world's peace-loving countries to urge Iran to submit to the international community's will for finding a speedy end to its war with Iraq.

We take this opportunity to renew our call to Iran to stop its aggression and threats against Arab Gulf countries and to participate in efforts to establish peace, stability, and security, which is also the responsibility of all countries in the region and all UN members.

While we again express our appreciation for Iraq's readiness to stop the war and end the conflict in accordance with UN resolutions, I wish from here to reiterate the Saudi Kingdom's support for UN Security Council Resolution 598, which would bring peace and stability to both parties in the conflict and to the international community, and would safeguard the interests of both Iraq and Iran.

The Arab states have unanimously supported that resolution and urged the United Nations and its secretary general to increase their efforts in implementing the resolution. However, Iran's reply to the resolution and to UN efforts to end the fighting and bring about peace unfortunately came as it did in the speech delivered a few days ago by its president. This means the international organization should take a firm and decisive stand that guarantees the adoption of necessary measures for implementing this resolution. It urges the UN Security Council in particular to adopt without delay an executive follow-up resolution to Resolution 598 guaranteeing the imposition of sanctions against any party that fails to implement the resolution, in accordance with the UN Charter.

Mr Chairman, Iran has not stopped its war with Iraq, a war that has devoured everything, spread instability and concern in the region, and exposed it to the threat of foreign intervention and international conflict. Iran has threatened the security and peace of its neighbors, not just in the Gulf, but elsewhere, too. In the past few years, it has let no opportunity pass to show hostility toward these countries.

It has committed sabotage in Kuwait and fired missiles at civilian-inhabited areas. It has planted mines in Gulf waters and helped involve the Gulf in the whirlpool of war, aggression, and disturbances.

The Iranian regime has become a law unto itself in its rejection of internatioanl charters; in its violation of the international community's laws, conventions, and traditions; and in its deviation from proper diplomatic behavior. There is nothing more indicative of this than the Iranian authorities' violation of the sanctity of the Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies in Tehran, their blatant occupation of them, the looting of their contents, and the mistreatment of their employees, which led to the death of a Saudi diplomat.

Islam has nothing whatsoever to do with such actions and practices. At no time since the rise of the Islamic sun of divine guidance—through the message of the Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and prayers be upon him—has Islam ever been a source for extremism and terrorism. Furthermore, this true religion has never been and will never be a closed fanatical religion, but is instead an open, tolerant religion standing for love among all mankind.

Throughout the past 8 years, the Saudi Kingdom has sought to maintain normal relations with Iran, hoping this would help preserve the bonds and good-neighborliness between itself and Iran. For this reason it has overlooked many of the provocative acts and practices committed against the Kingdom and its people. But over all these years, Iran has let no occasion pass to express hostility toward the Kingdom and Arab Gulf countries.

It is regrettable that the Iranian president should speak from this international platform and make allegations that he and we know are false and whose falsehood is proven by evidence and proof.

It is regrettable that the president of this country, a civilization that derives its roots from the depths of history and whose noble Muslim people have always been one of the bastions of Islam as well as a builder of civilization, should come to display before this international gathering—which represents the world's conscience—a series of fallacies and fabrications completely disregarding the noble, tolerant principles of Islam and the true ethics of the Iranian people, in flagrant violation of and infringement on Islam's values and ideals.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been and still is always concerned about containing problems between Islamic countries within the proper Islamic framework. It has relentlessly sought to deal with these problems with guidance from our Islamic religion and away from demagoguery and bickering.

On this basis, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that the total international isolation and overall Arab and Islamic wrath now facing Iran are the natural response to those allegations and practices. These falsehoods and claims cannot wipe away the effects of the vile crime perpetrated by Iran's authorities in Mecca at the holy shrine, at the sacred spot that is the great Islamic symbol loved by every heart.

This vile crime was not perpetrated in secret or out of view. It occurred within the sight and hearing of millions of Muslims. All Islamic countries, bodies, organizations, and centers, as well as the international community as a whole, denounced these crimes of Iran's. We are hoping that the international reaction, especially Islamic reaction, will convince Iranian leaders that they cannot win people through force, terrorism, and violence; that they must instead undertake productive and beneficial action by becoming advocates of peace, brotherhood, and amity. These values constitute the core and essence of the true message of Islam, coming from God's words: Call thou to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and good admonition, and dispute with them a better way. Surely the Lord knows very well those who have gone astray from His way, and those who are guided by it.

Mr Chairman, we were optimistic after the previous session that a suitable solution to the Afghan problem would be reached. However, it is regrettable that the situation is still the same as it was: The foreign occupation continues and the Muslim Afghan people are still struggling with all their strength, sacrificing their sons' blood to defend their religion, homeland, and sovereignty. They are additionally enduring the most difficult hardships to resist occupation, demand the removal of foreign forces from their territory, and establish a rule satisfactory to them.

While we stress our total support for the Afghan mujahidin in their just struggle, we still hope that the Soviet Union, a superpower, would respond to the resolutions of the United Nations and the ICO, the stipulations of the UN Charter, and international appeals for a speedy withdrawal from Afghanistan— which has been a free and independent state throughout history.

While we support UN mediation efforts to reach an acceptable solution that would secure the return of all Afghan refugees to their homes, noninterference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, and maintenance of its Islamic and nonaligned identity, we hope that in the event such a solution is reached, relations between the two neighboring countries—the USSR and Afghanistan—would become relations of good-neighborliness and mutual respect.

We would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation for the great role played by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the sacrifices borne by its people in hosting over 3.5 million Afghan refugees in their country, despite the economic and security difficulties that Pakistan is seeking to overcome. We urged countries around the world to cooperate with Pakistan in this great effort. [passage omitted]

Mr Chairman, as we approach another year at the United Nations, we look forward to an encouraging phase in international cooperation in resolving political and economic problems that transcend the narrow limits of individual states—thus helping us overcome the obstacles and difficulties faced by international cooperation—to resolve problems and lead the international community to advanced stages in cooperation. This, in turn, would lead to the necessary political and economic stability to face future challenges. Peace be upon you and God's mercy and blessings.

Iran Allegations on Mecca Corpses Denied

LD292212 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] An Interior Ministry official has issued a statement in response to an IRNA report citing Iranian Minister of Interior 'Ali 'Akbar Mohtashemi at a Tehran news conference to the effect that the Saudi Government has not yet replied to Tehran's appeals demanding the return of corpses of 59 Iranian pilgrims who died during the criminal acts in Holy Mecca by agents of the Iranian regime, stressing that two Iranians detained during those incidents have not been released. Mohtashemi did not name the detainees.

To clarify the truth that the Iranian regime avoids facing through uttering lies and fabrications, the Saudi source stated that the corpses of the 54 who died during the pilgrimage were offered for inspection to the Iranians, members of the medical team accompanying the pilgrims, members of the Iranian Embassy staff, and other Iranians who claimed that members of their families were missing; none of them was able to identify the corpses. The Iranian pilgrimage mission and the Iranian Embassy know that the correct number of corpses is 54 and not 59 as Mohtashemi claimed. They also know that among those corpses there may be persons of other nationalities, especially since requests are being received from non-Iranian, including Saudi quarters, for permission to help them identify their relatives missing during those criminal acts.

With all the facilities offered to the Iranian pilgrimage mission and to the Iranian Embassy, it was more than one stressed to them that they should provide proof that

any of the corpses are Iranians. They should do this by presenting passports or sending a fingerprint file so that the latter can be compared and so that the corpses' nationality can be investigated and ascertained. They can also do this by sending family members of those who are missing in order to identify them if they are among the corpses. The Iranians asked to be allowed to send 52 persons to perform this task, and their request was approved. However, they instead sent no one. In fact, the hospital officials possess a statement from an official of the Iranian medical mission to the effect that he had identified the corpses given to medical mission, and that he could not identify the remainder.

From this it becomes clear that the Iranians themselves have provided nothing to establish the corpses' identity. In fact, they are striving to conceal the evidence of their crime by demanding that they be given the corpses without offering proof of identity. The Iranians' procrastination all this time has delayed the corpses' burial, in contravention of Islamic Shari'ah. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is giving the Iranian authorities one last chance to submit whatever evidence they may possess. Otherwise, the government will be compelled to bury the corpses.

As for Mohtashemi's reference to two Iranians being detained since the time of the events in holy Mecca, this is mere fabrication.

Iran Charge of Spying Equipment Denied

LD291432 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1358 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Sep (SPA)—A responsible source has denied Iranian allegations that the Saudi Embassy in Tehran provided spying equipment to what the Iranians described as a group of agents.

This source told SPA that there is no truth at all to the Iranian authorities' claims in this regard. These claims were reported by the *Associated Press Agency* last Sunday, 27 September 1987.

The source affirmed that the embassy has not delivered any equipment of whatever type to anyone.

Air Landing of Israeli Businessman Denied

LD291638 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Sep (SPA)—A responsible military source has affirmed that there is no truth in reports published by the Israeli press that an Israeli bussinessman had to land in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia while traveling from Hong Kong to Frankfurt. A military source told SPA that based on information available to them, what the Israeli press published, and which was quoted by the *Associated Press Agency* yesterday, Monday, was absolutely untrue.

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives 29 Sep

Met by King Fahd

LD291642 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 29 Sep (SPA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Jeddah at 1800 today (local time).

He was met at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general. [passage omitted]

Meets With King Fahd

JN300647 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Jeddah—The Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Saudi side, headed by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, held a meeting at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah yesterday evening. During the 2-hour meeting, they reviewed priority issues in the Arab arena, as well as regional events and developments. These topics will be discussed at the extraordinary Arab summit due to be held in Jordan on 8 November.

The two leaders affirmed the need to pool efforts to reunite the Arabs in order to build Arab solidarity and enable the Arab nation to confront the challenges facing it. They also discussed the latest developments in the Gulf region and the need to reach a unified Arab stand that would help end the Iraq-Iran war, whose continuation threatens the region's security and stability.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Zayd al-Rifa'i, the prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim; chief of the Royal Hashimite Court; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; Staff Field Marshal al-Sahrif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; and Al-Sharif Fawwaz Zabin 'Abdallah, commander of the Desert Force and the Border Guard.

The Saudi side was represented by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and National Guard commander; Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, acting minister of higher education and minister of education; 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mansuri, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; the Saudi ambassador to Jordan, and the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

King Fahd hosted a dinner banquet in honor of King Husayn. It was attended by the accompanying delegation and their highnesses the princes and senior Saudi officials.

Arab League Head Meets King Fahd, Departs

LD291436 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1334 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Jeddah 29 Sep, SPA—His Excellency Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general, departed Jeddah this afternoon following a visit to the Kingdom. During this visit, he met with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques; and Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard.

He was seen off at the airport by His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, and a royal protocol representative.

United Arab Emirates

King Husayn Arrives in Abu Dhabi 29 Sep

JN291034 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in the UAE from Salalah at 1200 today. His visit to the UAE comes within a tour of countries in the region. [passage omitted]

The Jordanian monarch is accompanied on his visit by a delegation comprising Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; and Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Meets With President

JN291545 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi—His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, held a meeting at the Guest Palace in Abu Dhabi this afternoon. The two leaders made a comprehensive assessment of the current Arab sitaution from all its angles, as well as the efforts being made to achieve Arab solidarity, boost collective Arab action, and convene the extraordinary summit in Amman. They also reviewed the situation in the Arab Gulf region in light of developments in the Iraq-Iran war, efforts being made to end this war, and the relations between the fraternal countries.

His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Shaykh Zayid exchanged views on the issues and challenges facing the Arab nation. The talks were interrupted by a bilateral meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Shaykh Zayid, and another meeting between the Jordanian delegation accompanying his majesty and their UAE counterparts. [passage omitted]

Ends Talks, Departs 29 Sep

JN291356 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 29 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, and Jordan's monarch King Husayn concluded their talks in Abu Dhabi today.

King Husayn left Abu Dhabi for Jeddah this afternoon on the third leg of a tour of a number of Arabian Gulf states in preparation for the emergency Arab summit to be held in Amman on 8 November.

The Jordanian monarch was seen off by Shaykh Zayid; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, the UAE heir apparent and deputy supreme Armed Forces commander; and a number of high-ranking officials.

'Aziz Talks With Shultz, Other Counterparts

JN291755 Baghdad INA in English 1720 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] New York, Sept 29, INA—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr Tariq 'Aziz held meetings today with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian of China, Abu Hassan Haji Omar of Malaysia, Vahit Halefoglu of Turkey and Ricardo Garcia Rodriguez of Chile.

The talks centered on the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war, United Nations efforts to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 demanding an end to the war, and other issues of bilateral interest. A number of heads of state and foreign ministers are in New York participating in the opening debate of the UN General Assembly.

Defense Minister Confers With SFRY Team

JN281204 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1148 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, has met with Nikola Ljubicic, member of the SFRY Presidency. They discussed ways to reinforce relations of friendship and cooperation in the service of their countries' interests. The meeting was attended by General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs, and the delegation accompanying the SFRY official.

Israeli Intelligence Men Invited To Visit Iran

JN271407 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 27 Sep 87

[Text] Kuwait, Sept. 27, INA—An Iranian personality disclosed that three Zionist generals who formerly worked as directors of the Zionist intelligence and the military intelligence service accepted an invitation from Ahmed Khomeyni, son of Khomeyni, to visit Iran. The Iranian personality attended meetings held recently in the outskirts of Geneva between Zionist and Iranian officials named the three generals as Gen. Yitzhaq Houfi and Gen. Ezer Harel former heads of the Mossad and Gen. Yahousha' Saji former head of military intelligence.

The Kuwaiti *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* daily quoted the Iranian personality who joined Iranian opposition recently as saying that objective of the generals visit is aimed at setting up a new Iranian Savak intelligence organ to replace the present one. The Iranian personality said that Iranian officials during the Geneva meetings requested their Zionist counterparts to work out a program for coordinating work between Zionist and Iranian intelligence in Europe centered on smuggling arms to Iran and benefitting from the Zionist entity experiments in the black market.

He added that Iranian officials requested names of European arms procurors and setting up maritime, import and export companies to facilitate arms smuggling operations.

The Iranian personality was a member of an Iranian diplomatic mission in a European country and was instructed to attend the Geneva meeting but then decided to discard his position and joined the Iranian opposition.

Further on Gulf War Combat Operations

Fighting in North Denied

JN291419 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—Iraq has categorically denied Iranian claims about the occurrence of fighting tod[illegible] in the border area of Shiran in the northern Dahuk Governorate. In a statement to INA today, a military spokesman said that the Iranian regime is propagating these lies in an attempt to raise the deteriorating morale of its forces.

Communique No 2,850

JN291647 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Communique No 2,850 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 September and carried during "Radio Babylon" broadcast]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great; praise be to Him for His great victory. God is great and the victory is yours, O lofty Iraqis, who struggle with unique bravery behind the banner of your great hero, leader Saddam Husayn, in defense of your dignity and to protect your land and sovereignty. You struggle to keep the word of God high and the word of the evil criminals low. You struggle for the sake of freedom, honor, civilization, and progress, as well as to achieve peace according to God's will, to stop the bloodshed, and to save your efforts for good deeds.

O lofty Iraqis: The criminal Iranian rulers, who despise their country and their people's souls and who started this war in the service of Zionism and its evil purposes, inspired by their historical grudges to satisfy old ambitions, still insist on the war and its pains for the same motives. They think that time is on their side and that they can attain their goals. Their hopes will be disappointed and defeated, they will be dismembered, their scandal will be disclosed, their deception will turn against them, and they and their supporters will be accursed. A true country led by a gallant hero, leader Saddam Husan—a country in which such free men live—will always be on the right path, a believer and a struggler. Victory is the lot of righteous believers and strugglers.

To tear up the hopes of Iran's desperate rulers, to respond to their rejection of the Security Council resolution, to destroy the pillars of aggression, and to challenge the Khomeyniites inside their home territory— far inside their home territory—our gigantic Air Force, which is known for its bravery and the efficiency and courage of its men, carried out the following heroic missions, which represent a unique utilization of the Air Force:

1. At 1320 [0920 GMT] today, scores of our daring aircraft penetrated deep inside Iran, approximately 900 km from our international border, to the area of Tehran, the very capital of the charlatans. Our rapacious hawks penetrated the enemy air defenses to pour bombs on the Barjin factory for weapons and hardware. The hawks only left the area when they saw explosions and fires in the hit targets of the factory.

2. At 1620, scores of our aircraft challenged the enemy in even more distant areas. They flew deep inside Iran, more than 1,000 km from our international border, to deliver a devastating blow to the (Naga) power station near the Soviet-Iranian border. It supplies Tehran and the northern area of Tehran with electricity.

3. At 1228, our planes dealt destructive blows to enemy assembly points, weapon depots, and weapons in the Khaneh camp.

4. Scores of our planes dealt a violent blow to the Pelleh-ye Baba oil pumping station, setting it ablaze.

5. At 1526, our planes returned to the Khaneh camp to deal more destructive blows.

6. At 1720, our aircraft penetrated deep inside the Arabian Gulf to deal an effective, accurate blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

After carrying out all these missions, our hawks returned with their planes safely to the homeland in God's care and protection. Our hawks returned and their eyes filled with love for the great leader Saddam Husayn and the faithful people. They returned victorious to the homeland.

O Khomeyni! O Khomeyni's followers! You seek war. This is war—devastating blows dealt by Iraqis, the advocates of peace. This is the only meaning of war. Nobody will save you. We will double your pains until we reach the great victory.

Blessed be you, O brave men from the heroes of our Air Force—commanders, hawks, officers, and men. You opened the gates of victory with bravery and efficiency. The Iraqi fighters have learned wisdom, bravery, and the art of fighting, inspired by leader Saddam Husayn. God, we praise You for Your great victory. God preserve our leader and bless our efforts on the path of well-being.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 September 1987

Communique No 2,851

JN291716 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Communique No 2,851 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued to inflict on the aggressors more losses in their combat missions last night and today as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force carried out 107 combat tasks to implement the missions mentioned in Communique No 2,850, which was issued today. All our planes then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. The brave helicopter gunship knights carried out 54 combat sorties in which they inflicted on the aggressors new losses in personnel, hardware, and weapons. Our knights then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. In the I Army Corps northern sector, five enemy personnel were killed and one 60-mm mortar was destroyed and its crew killed.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, one enemy scoundrel was killed, one infantry position was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

5. Our brave forces in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah killed six enemy personnel, blew up seven ammunition dumps, and destroyed one vehicle and four infantry positions.

6. In the VII Army Corps sector, one 106-mm gun, one shovel [preceding word in English], and one infantry position were destroyed and one vehicle was set ablaze.

7. The criminal enemy shelled the Bimalik residential area with long-range artillery. As a result, seven civilians, including four women and a child, were wounded, and a number of houses were damaged. A swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 September 1987

Shelling of Civilians Denied

JN291807 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims about shelling Iranian residential areas. In a statement to INA tonight, the spokesman said that the Iraqi planes' definite targets today were a weapons factory, the (Naga) power station,

the Khaneh camp, the Pelleh-ye Bamba oil station, and a maritime target. The spokesman described these Iranian claims as merely lies to justify their daily shelling of residential areas.

The Iraqi spokesman added: So far Iraq has not responded to Iran in the same manner and has not struck at residential areas. The spokesman affirmed that this commitment will not last long if the Iranians continue to strike at Iraqi residential areas. The Iraqi spokesman affirmed that when Iraq strikes in response to Iranian shelling of residential areas it will not hesitate to announce this.

Al-Zubayr, Basra Shelled

JN300954 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0944 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Basra, southern Iraq, 30 Sep (INA)—The Iranian regime resumed its long-range artillery shelling of the Al-Zubayr District in the Al-Basrah Governorate, southern Iraq, at 0800 [0400 GMT] today. The city of Basra has been under enemy long-range artillery shelling since 1030 today. The INA correspondent reports that the indiscriminate enemy shelling hit a number of residential areas in the cities of Al-Zubayr and Basra.

Peres Accuses Soviets of Blocking Peace Bid

TA291131 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Speaking in Beverly Hills, California, Foreign Minister Peres has accused the Soviet Union of blocking his attempt to convene Middle East peace talks. Addressing the local World Affairs Council, Peres said the Soviets were demanding a larger role for the international conference that would precede the actual peace talks. In Peres' view, if convened, such a conference could overcome objections by Prime Minister Shamir and some Arab leaders. Peres, who met with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at the United Nations earlier this month, said the Soviets say they have agreed that the conference would not have a right to impose a solution, veto an agreement, or conduct negotiations. Yet, at the same time, they are asking to have what he called authoritative participation. What this means was not clear.

Peres-Wu Meeting 'Unofficially Confirmed'

TA291609 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Report by Yaron Deqel]

[Text] Barring last-minute hitches, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will arrive at the headquarters of the PRC delegation to the United Nations in New York tomorrow, where the PRC's foreign minister, Wu Xueqian, will await him. This will be the highest-level meeting between Israeli and PRC officials since the establishment of the State of Israel. PRC and Israeli officials, including Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir, have been holding clandestine contacts over the past 12 months.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has unofficially confirmed the scheduled meeting between the two foreign ministers at the United Nations tomorrow. At the meeting, Peres intends to discuss the peace process in the region, the possibility of PRC participation in an international peace conference, and bilateral ties. As will be recalled, the PRC has consistently supported the Arab side in the Middle East conflict.

Israel and the PRC have developed economic and trade relations over the last few years. According to reports based on foreign sources, Israel and the PRC also have broad defense-related ties.

Shamir Comments on Upcoming Shultz Visit

TA291221 Jerusaelm Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Secretary Shultz will arrive in Israel shortly. Prime Minister Shamir welcomes his arrival, adding that he is sure that Shultz is fully aware of his views on the international conference and is not coming in order to argue. The prime minister toured tourist sites in northern Israel, and our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from there.

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The day before yesterday the U.S. secretary of state called me, the prime minister said, and told me that he wanted to come for a very short visit to Jerusalem. I told him that he is always a welcome and honored guest here.

[Shamir] I expressed my pleasure. I am always glad to see him, hear what he has to say, and talk with him. I will be very happy to receive him in a few days time, before he leaves for talks in Moscow.

[Hecht] Mr Prime Minister, were you surprised by his announcement about wanting to come here?

[Shamir] I was not surprised. After all, visits by state leaders and prime ministers are not a surprise today. I consider myself a friend of Mr Shultz, and I am always glad to see him and talk with him.

[Hecht] The Washington State Department spokesman announced that the goal of Secretary Shultz' visit is to promote ideas for the achievement of peace in the Middle East, including that of the international conference.

[Shamir] I have not heard this from the State Department. However, one can assume that all political possibilities in the region will be discussed. We all know each other's positions. I assume that U.S. State Department officials know my positions, and they are surely not coming here to argue.

[Hecht] The prime minister was asked whether he and Secretary Shultz could have a productive discussion on the international conference issue.

[Shamir] Look, I am always open to hear any view, but the views which I consolidated are not exactly transitory.

[Hecht] Mr Prime Minister, are you somewhat angry at the foreign minister who—if one may put it this way—organized the visit without your knowledge and without coordinating it with you?

[Shamir] I do not think our foreign minister organized the visit. I think it was initiated by the U.S. secretary of state and, as I said, I will be glad to receive him.

[Hecht] The foreign minister will address the UN General Assembly today. Has the content of his speech been coordinated with you? Will it express the position of the Israeli Government and not only that of Peres on the international conference issue?

[Shamir] We will wait a few hours and hear. Before he left we talked about what I believe should be the content of his speech.

[Hecht] At the Hamat Gader baths, kibbutz members with whom Shamir met suggested that he hold Cabinet meetings on the shores of Lake Tiberias, saying that a hot bath for Ariel Sharon and a cool Jacuzzi for Weizman would undoubtedly calm the stormy tempers in the Cabinet.

[Shamir] Well, the question is not one of temperature, and we normally hold Cabinet meetings at a certain, very specific place. [end recording]

Shamir Aide on PRC Meeting, Shultz Visit

TA291710 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Dan Shilon and Goni Savir—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Savir] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is to meet his PRC counterpart tomorrow.

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, so the media reported.

[Savir] What is your reaction to this?

[Ben-Aharon] We welcome any contact or expansion of contacts with countries that do not maintain ties with Israel. Any such move will be welcomed.

[Savir] Even if they involve attempts to include the PRC in an international conference?

[Ben-Aharon] The PRC does not need to have someone else include it in a conference. If it wants to be included, and since it supports such a conference, it has no problem.

[Shilon] You say that there were press reports on the upcoming meeting. Does that mean that you did not get a firsthand report on this from the foreign minister?

[Ben-Aharon] I saw no such report, but then the report itself is not the most important thing in the world. The important thing is the meeting.

[Shilon] Are you saying that a prior consultation between the prime minister and the foreign minister in anticipation of the latter's meeting with the foreign minister of the PRC is not mandatory, or is not merited by the significance of the event?

[Ben-Aharon] What is the point of consultations before the meeting? First let the meeting take place, and then we will see. After all, this is a first.

[Savir] Perhaps that is reason enough to hold consultations.

[Ben-Aharon] No, I do not think so.

[Shilon] Mr Ben-Aharon, were you surprised by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' decision to visit?

[Ben-Aharon] Look, every move involving a visit constitutes a change, although I would not say it is a surprise. Secretary of State Shultz telephoned the prime minister and told him that on his way to the Moscow summit, he planned to stop over in this region and visit Israel, Jordan, and Egypt. He told him what he intends to achieve in this visit; namely, to be updated, hear what is happening in the political sphere regarding the peace process, and see if there are any ideas or thoughts so that when he meets his Soviet counterpart in Moscow, he can present a position that reflects reality in the region.

[Savir] Some maintain that Secretary Shultz will again try to make the prime minister change his position on the international conference, possibly by providing far-reaching guarantees.

[Ben-Aharon] I cannot imagine who is spreading such reports, and they are totally unfounded.

[Savir] Will the prime minister suggest his own peace plan, a new plan?

[Ben-Aharon] We are not a doughnut shop where goods are made fresh every day.

[Savir] Perhaps an alternative to the idea of an international conference will be raised?

[Ben-Aharon] But an alternative already exists, a call for direct negotiations. Actually, it is not an alternative; it is the only substantial idea.

[Savir] So no new ideas will be raised?

[Ben-Aharon] Again, I do not know what you mean by new ideas. We want peace with the Arab countries, and want that to be achieved through direct negotiations. We feel no need to come up with new, headline-capturing inventions day in and day out just to please the media. This is serious business that requires an effort toward reaching a dialogue with the Jordanian monarch and, with God's help, with all our neighbors.

Rabin: Syria, Iraq Supplied With Inferior Mig's

TA300553 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] The defense minister has said that the IDF is in the process of incorpoating another 75 upgraded F-16c's which are superior to the aircraft of the Arab armies.

As for the Soviet Mig-29's that were supplied to Iraq and Syria, Mr Rabin said that the Soviets did not outfit these aircraft with all their most sophisticated components and that is why their quality is lower than that of the full-fledged Soviet plane. The Soviets did this out of fear that the aircraft supplied to the Arab countries might fall into Israel's hands. Nevertheless, Rabin believes that the Israeli Air Force's F-16's can compete with the full-fledged Mig-29's. Mr Rabin made these remarks yesterday during a tour of Gaza.

Shamir Interviewed on Peace Goals, Conference

TA251018 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 25 Sep 87

[Special New Year interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami and correspondents David Grossman and Me'ir Einstein at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, the celebrations marking the 40th aniversary of Israel's independence day coincide with the 20th anniversary of the 6-Day War. I believe that everyone who has ever been prime minister or minister in Israel, as well as all citizens of Israel throughout these 40 years, have aspired for peace. On the occasion of this double jubilee, can you see us approaching some kind of peace or an arrangement that would bring calm to the Middle East?

[Shamir] First of all, it is true that we can openly celebrate the 20th anniversary of the 6-Day War, which saved Israel and brought it substantially closer to the attainment of its goals. At the same time, we are clearly getting closer and closer to peace with our neighbors day by day. The best manifestation of this is the knowledge that each passing day broadens the understanding among Israel's neighbors that they must accept its existence.

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, when you talk about getting closer to peace and mention Israel's neighbors in this context, do you include the Palestinian people in this as well, or are you actually talking only about sovereign countries?

[Shamir] I am talking about the Arab world. If you ask me about the Palestinians, there is a growing number of Arab inhabitants of Eretz Yisra'el who believe it is necessary to attain peaceful relations with the State of Israel, or rather with the Jewish people in Eretz Yisra'el.

[Einstein] So how do you explain the fact that they are actually unprepared to sit at the table to conduct direct negotiations if indeed, as you claim, they are becoming increasingly aware of the need for peace with Israel?

[Shamir] This is a process involving rather extensive development. There is currently greater readiness for and receptiveness to the need for peace with Israel. This is not to say, however, that all Arab elements are already prepared to sit down and negotiate conditions that would be acceptable to us as well. That is why I say that the political struggle now is not about instilling the idea of the actual need for peace, but about the conditions for peace that would allow coexistence and our existence through independence and progress.

[Ben-'Ami] Can this already be perceived? We know that Israel is ready for it despite the differences of opinion which we have talked about so much and for so long. The question is whether you can notice the same degree of readiness on the Arab side, too.

[Shamir] I am saying that we can observe a large measure of moderation in the attitude toward Israel, which is to say greater readiness to achieve some sort of peaceful settlement. This is in contrast with the previously dominant view that only one arrangement can be reached with Israel, and that is to annihilate it, to exterminate it. Now they are talking about the type of peaceful conditions that would be acceptable to both sides, peaceful conditions with which we can live. And I emphasize: conditions we can live with, because this refers to us. The other side faces no danger to its very existence and security.

[Grossman] Sir, since it is agreed that we are the ones facing the danger, and that time is not working in our favor, what is Israel doing to fight for peace?

[Shamir] I never said that time is working against us. On the contrary, time is on our side because as time passes, the understanding in the Arab world that it is necessary to obtain peace with Israel is gaining momentum. In its contacts with various political circles throughout the world, Israel is doing everything to entrench this realization in the Arab world further to the point that it can be expressed in reasonable negotiations.

[Ben-'Ami] Can you notice a similar process of moderation with respect to Arab terrorism against Israel, which is without a doubt a hurdle and a thoroughly condemnable phenomenon?

[Shamir] This is the manifestation of the feeling that more and more Arabs now comprehend, that the course of violence and terrorism against Israel will achieve no goal. Israel is immune to this terrorism. It will not make Israel budge one inch. If anything, it could possibly have the opposite effect, bolstering a steadfast adherence to our own positions. Therefore, the only way is through peaceful negotiations.

[Grossman] Sir, one reason for your opposition to an international conference is the participation of the Soviet Union. We have noticed, however that other winds may be blowing from the Kremlin and that the atmosphere has thawed and is more open. Is this perhaps the time to launch a new era in our attitude toward the inclusion of the Soviet Union in the process?

[Shamir] I am ready to hold talks with the Soviet Union on all regional affairs, and am likewise prepared to discuss their positions against ours. But this still does not make it incumbent upon me to allow the Soviet Union to play a central role in any arrangement that will determine our fate and future. The Soviet Union's official position up to now has been extremely negative toward us, toward our policy, toward the conditions for Israel's existence and independence, and particularly toward the right of Jews to immigrate to Israel. This requires a discussion with them.

I may have been the first Israeli to act toward normalizing relations in a bid to establish a true dialogue. But we have not yet reached any understanding with the Soviet Union. An international conference is an institution that even now could have a highly significant impact on our future. Consequently, there is no need to rush. As a rule, I am no firm believer in international conferences. I think that it is possible to resolve conflicts first of all by face-to-face talks and deliberations held for an extended period of time without limitations. An international conference is a different kind of phenomenon, usually a one-time event, in which delegates meet for a few days and normally end up agreeing on things that had already been agreed upon in previous negotiations or other contacts. Here we are offered a conference with the participation of various elements, by and large bodies that oppose Israel's positions. In the view and opinion of those who envision it, the international conference is to rule on the basic things that determine the future of our country. I object to this. I believe there is no need for this, that it is dangerous and should be avoided.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, do you not fear that the latest Moscow-Washington rapprochement in the form of a nuclear arms limitation accord could breed even greater harmony between the two countries? Coupled with the fact that we are actually about to lose Israel's staunchest supporters and defenders in the White House and the State Department—Reagan and Shultz—we may actually find ourselves in a situation in which the Soviet Union and the United States in tandem could one day force upon us some sort of arrangement that would not be to our liking at all.

[Shamir] Like every small or medium-sized country, we have always opposed an arrangement whereby the major superpowers reach some sort of agreement between themselves and about our future. Thus, if you recall, we had great apprehensions in 1977—before the Camp David summit, prior to Al-Sadat's arrival in Jerusalem—when Gromyko and Vance signed the agreement on the Middle East. We made a great effort to cancel it. The a priori approach of every country, not only Israel, normally is to express opposition to agreements reached between world leaders on that country's fate.

The Soviet Union and the United States are currently finalizing an agreement on nuclear disarmament. We realized from the start that in these negotiations the Jewish issue or the Middle East will play no role whatsoever. But other topics will later be discussed, such as things pertaining to the immigration of Soviet Jews or to Middle East affairs. At this point we will have the opportunity to express our views in various ways, not necessarily in an international conference, and state our positions.

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, let us get back to peace. When you talk about the growing awareness among our neighbors for the need for peace, what kind of peace do you actually have in mind?

[Shamir] Peace means first of all nonbelligerency. Peace is the acceptance of a certain reality and of certain conditions that would be established with the consent of the parties involved in that peace.

[Einstein] By a certain reality do you mean continued Israeli control over Judaea and Samaria?

[Shamir] All of these issues will be up for discussion in the negotiations. I say that Israel to date has been faithful to the commitments it undertook in the Camp David accords, because it was a signatory to them. According to the Camp David agreements, the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are negotiable. I therefore say: Let us sit down and negotiate.

[Einstein] In other words, you do not rule out the possibility that if the Camp David model is applied to the eastern front—and as will be recalled, we evacuated the Sinai in exchange for the peace agreement with Egypt—we will also withdraw from Judaea and Samaria in return for a real peace, naturally subject to certain conditions?

[Shamir] No, no. I never said that and will never do so. Every agreement includes its own conditions. The Sinai is different from Judaea and Samaria. We are prepared to engage in negotiations without preconditions. I cannot tell you now what my preconditions are, as I have none. I am prepared to hear the other side's proposals and will voice ours. But first of all, we must sit down at the negotiating table.

[Ben-'Ami] I would like to redirect this interview back to the subject of peace, to ask if you regard the peace with Egypt as an example of the kind of peace you mean. More specifically, let us discuss your meetings, for example. You hold meetings with heads of states from all over the world and with superpower leaders, but you have not yet met with President Mubarak.

[Shamir] First of all, I did meet with him.

[Ben-'Ami] I mean, not since you became prime minister.

[Shamir] That is better. But I cannot say I am pleased with that state of affairs. This is one stage in the process. I have always said, even after we signed the peace agreement with Egypt, that this is still a process, and that the normalization of relations with Egypt is a process that will evidently take a long time. I have not noticed a major improvement in our ties since the peace agreement was signed, apart from the fact that we have peace and that there is no war. Nevertheless, we still have to go a long way to attain complete, peaceful relations. But we have time, and so do they. We must do everything in our power to improve relations. I believe we are prepared to do a lot toward this end, but that the Egyptians are less ready.

[Grossman] You said that we have time and that the time factor is playing into our hands. That leads me to the following question: What is the price we have to pay for ruling over 1.5 million Arabs who do not want us to rule them?

[Shamir] My view is that the status of those parts of Eretz Yisra'el will be up for discussion when we reach negotiations. No one would imagine that we would give up our assets before negotiations of whatever type are launched.

[Grossman] I asked you about the price.

[Shamir] What do you mean by that? One pays a price every day for everything one does. Everything has a price.

[Einstein] Sir, is the desire for peace here, or in the Cabinet under your leadership, our uppermost aspiration, or are there items you consider more important than peace?

[Shamir] Survival is more important than peace.

[Einstein] But peace is meant to guarantee survival.

[Shamir] That is debatable. There is peace in the graveyard, where no one fights anyone else. One should always keep this image in mind. But there is no nation in the world that is seeking peace more vigorously than the Israeli nation as a whole. One should never forget this. And if we still do not have peace in Eretz Yisra'el at the moment, it is through no fault of ours, but because of the other side.

[Einstein] As far as you are concerned, are we doing everything we can?

[Shamir] Yes, we are doing everything we can, and that is more than the maximum.

[Ben-'Ami] Still, being a political figure, you must pay a certain political price for what I perceive as your abstention from implementing the settlement policy the way you would really have liked.

[Shamir] I did that for the sake of domestic peace, for national unity, because we thought—and I still believe—that the existence of the national unity government is essential for Israel. I am prepared to slow down the settlement process to meet that end. That is all.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you not fear that in fact...

[Shamir, interrupting] I am not doing it for the sake of any Arab element.

[Ben-'Ami] Precisely. That is why I am asking if you fear your policy may have a detrimental effect on you in terms of your relations with your colleagues?

[Shamir] Look, we all decide on the moves we make according to a shared agreement among those of us who bear the responsibility. It is not a question of coercion or someone's unilateral or individual decision. This is our policy. [passage omitted]

SFRY Group Arrives for Talks on Direct Flights

TA270638 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Sep 87

[Text] An SFRY tourism delegation has arrived in Israel to discuss establishing direct flights between the two countries. The delegation includes two officials, one of whom said that the decision on direct flights between Belgrade and Tel Aviv signifies no change in Yugoslavia's policy toward Israel.

Airline Granted License

TA290959 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Sep 87 p 9

[Report by Jonathan Karp]

[Text] Direct flights between Yugoslavia and Israel are to begin by the end of the year. Transport Minister Hayim Corfu yesterday granted an operating licence to the Yugoslavian charter airline Adria.

Adria is to operate one or two flights a week, starting December 18, between Belgrade and Tel Aviv, according to the Yugoslav airline officials who recently arrived here to conclude the negotiations. They added that they expect to bring 8,000 Yugoslavian tourists to Israel during their first year of operation.

The true importance of the agreement for authorities here, however, is not commercial, but rather diplomatic because it signifies the growing ties between the two countries and will give Israel direct air links with a second Eastern European capital, after Bucharest.

Corfu said he hoped this step—the first such agreement with Yugoslavia—would help lead to the normalization of relations between Jerusalem and Belgrade, which were broken off in 1967.

Though the agreement does not grant an Israeli carrier immediate reciprocal rights, El Al is to begin its flights to Belgrade in early 1988, the Transport Ministry announced. Because yesterday's licence was given to a charter airline, El Al is expected to operate flights through its charter subsidiary Sun d'Or, a ministry spokesman said.

He added that negotiations for a full commercial agreement between the carriers are due to start soon.

6-Month Public Sector Wage Agreement Signed

TA270721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 27 Sep 87

[Text] The public sector wage agreement has been signed. The director of the Finance Ministry's Wage and Labor Agreements Department and the Histadrut's Trade Union Branch chief signed the agreement this morning. Thus, all public sector employees will receive a gross increment of 75 shekels beginning in the [October] paycheck that will be paid in November.

Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that those who work 47 hours a week will from now on work only 45 hours

The agreement is valid for only 6 months, after which the process of shortening the workweek in the public sector to 5 days a week will begin. The process will be gradual and will last until the end of next year.

Jordan Working for West Bank Autonomy Council

TA281111 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Sep 87 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Jordan has begun contacts with various circles in the West Bank to establish a central institution that will be able to develop into some sort of autonomy council. The *'Al Hamishmar* correspondent has learned that there has recently been talk of establishing an "Institute for Social Development in the West Bank and East Jerusalem" that will be able to form the infrastructure for an autonomy council.

Our correspondent has also learned that Dr Hatim Abu Ghazalah of Nabulus is to head the proposed institution and Dr Amin al-Khatib of East Jerusalem, the current head of West Bank charitable associations, is to serve as his deputy.

Dr Ahmad Suwaylim [name as published] is to serve as the institution's secretary. The "Institute for Social Development" is to be built around five committees equivalent to what could be considered ministries. The committee for foreign relations, the nucleus for a type of foreign ministry, is to be headed by Dr Husam 'Abd al-Hadi; Dr 'Atallawnah [name as published] is to head the committee for academic affairs; Dr Kamal 'Abd al-Fatah is to head the committee for administrative affairs; Dr 'Ala al-Din Bakri is to head the committee for financial affairs, a sort of finance ministry; and Dr Hatim Abu Ghazalah himself will be the institute's president.

It is not yet clear whether these people have already been let in on the secret and to what extent Israel is also involved in it.

West Bank 'Confederative Party' Announced

TA271137 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Sep 87 p 2

[Report from Jerusalem by Dani Rubinstein]

[Text] The Area Village Leagues recently made another atttempt to set up a political party in the West Bank.

Last week, Jamil al-'Amlah, the head of the Hebron Area Village Leagues, summoned several dozen clan leaders and Arab villagers from the region to announce the establishment of a new organization called "The Confederative Party." Al-'Amlah tried to portray his party as supporting closer ties between the West Bank and the Kingdom of Jordan. The convention was held at the Handal [name as published] Hotel in Bethlehem, and Israeli authorities did not interfere in the activity.

As will be recalled, there have been times when Israeli authorities supported similar initiatives by the Area Village Leagues, whereas at other times such moves were stopped.

In East Jerusalem over the last 2 days there were protest measures condemning Al-'Amlah and the Area Village Leagues. These attacks came not only from the press or other avowed PLO supporters, but also from the pro-Jordanian *Al-Nahar*, which attacked the activity. Over the weekend, pamphlets were circulated in many West Bank mosques, calling for closer links with Jordan.

It should be noted that the religious Muslim establishment in Judaea and Samaria is closely affiliated with the government in Amman. Its men belong to the political group in the territories that sympathizes with Jordan, whose activities in the area have expanded over the last few months.

Government Rejects Decision

TA291015 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Sep 87 p 3

[Report by Uri Nir]

[Excerpt] The office of the coordinator of activities in the territories has announced that permission will not be granted to establish political parties, including that of Jamil al-'Amlah, in the territories.

The decision by the coordinator's office comes in the wake of the announcement by Jamil al-'Amlah, the head of the Hebron Area Village Leagues, about his intention to set up a political party in the West Bank.

Al-'Amlah conferred with his lawyer yesterday to examine the legal possibilities for establishing a party and promoting his idea to set up his own newspaper.

Al-'Amlah argues that in view of the fact that there is no ban on the registration of political party activities inside the State of Israel as long as they are not hostile to the state, he is seriously considering the possibility of registering his party in Israel and centering its activities in areas under Israeli sovereignty, such as East Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Bethlehem Mayor Frayj Reviews West Bank Events
TA261142 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 26 Sep 87

[Report on an interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by Arye Gus, correspondent in the territories; date and place not given; recorded with Frayj speaking in English]

[Text] [Gus] In the past 12 months, Ilyas Frayj says, we noticed enthusiasm for the international peace conference diminishing. We similarly noted that the United States was displaying a passive attitude toward it, while Europe demonstrated no substantial initiative to speak of. Husayn, Mubarak, and Peres, says Frayj, did everything in their power to move the wheels of the peace process forward, but failed to create momentum.

[Frayj] His Majesty King Husayn, President Mubarak, and Mr Peres have tried their best to activate or promote the peace process. But I am very sorry to say that they could not create a momentum, either locally or internationally, for the peace process.

[Gus] The term momentum features very prominently in Frayj's remarks. He regards Al-Sadat's initiative as the desirable model for the Middle East. When Al-Sadat came to Israel, he pushed forward a dynamic peace plan, directing the whole world's attention toward him, says Frayj. But now, unfortunately, Israel's policy is vague, and everything is overshadowed by the war in the Persian Gulf, or the Arabian Gulf, as Frayj calls it. This is a crazy war that jeopardizes navigation and diverts the attention of the superpowers and the wealthy European countries away from the Middle East.

I cannot recall even one positive statement by an Israeli figure expressing acceptance of the principle of territories in exchange for peace.

[Frayj] I do not remember hearing any positive response from any Israeli leader accepting the principle of territories for peace.

[Gus] All this leads to Israel and the Arabs continuing to pay homage to the United States, making pilgrimages to Europe, while in the meantime no momentum is being created. I pointed out to him that Husayn backed out of an international conference at the very last minute, and his response was: Last year, Husayn was the only one to fulfill all the demands for the convocation of an international conference. His positions, furthermore, were the clearest.

Last year, the Jordanian 5-year aid plan for the inhabitants of the territories was born to the sound of great pomp and fanfare. Yet it met with a premature death soon after. Expectations soared so high, the disappointment was shattering, I told Frayj. He, however, holds a different opinion. We must be grateful even for Jordan's attempts to set up a plan to assist the inhabitants of the territories. We must thank Jordan for allocating some $15 million out of its budget, while the other Arab countries kept their fists tightly closed.

Why do you not judge for yourself, says Frayj. Israel earmarks some $200 million a year for the expansion of the settlements, for the improvement of the road infrastructure in the territories, and for development. This $200 million is spent on 70,000 Jews. And how much do the 1.5 million inhabitants of the territories receive? The Arab countries, Frayj says, have a moral commitment. So do the United States and the EEC.

Our next topic was the PLO. Last year, the PLO convened the PNC, and 'Arafat made peace with the factions that had seceded. Was this an achievement? And how do the inhabitants of the territories view the PNC? Frayj sounds skeptical: It is true that 'Arafat made peace with his in-house enemies, but at the same time he triggered the anger of Egypt, Morocco, and Jordan. What is the point of burying the hatchet with your brother-in-law if at the same time you annoy the whole clan? Ultimately, when 'Arafat wanted to send a message via Knesset Member [MK] Charlie Biton, those who had only yesterday made peace with 'Arafat severely criticized him.

During the past 12 months, Arab mayors have been appointed in Hebron, Ramallah, and Al-Birah, and Hanna Sinyurah came out with his initiative of running for mayor of Jerusalem. But Ilyas Frayj is still pessimistic: In those past 12 months, he perceived a grave deterioration in relations between Jews and Arabs in the territories. I have always warned about the attitude of the settlers toward the Arabs, he says. But now the situation has escalated into a series of acts of vengeance. If an Arab child throws a stone, the settlers promptly show up at the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp. The Arabs are being harassed, they are being dishonored, and above all, the terrible threat of transfer looms ominously above.

[Frayj] We have heard many dangerous calls about the transfer of Arabs from their motherland to other countries. Who really believes in Israeli pretensions for peace?

[Gus] When a person who holds the position of deputy defense minister, or a former military commander, or MK's repeat the notion, raising it in public, who can believe in the sincerity of Israel's claim that it is seeking peace? Just as a Jewish child has the right to live in peace and security, so does my grandchild, an innocent and honest boy, have every right to live in peace and security.

What about terrorist activity, I asked him? Terrorism of any kind should be condemned, Frayj says, regardless of whether it comes in reaction to other acts of terrorism. After all, terrorism breeds terrorism, and there is no hope for an end to that snowball. What we need now is peace, the recipe for which, according to Frayj, is clear: two peoples that will coexist in equality and sovereignty. Frayj is careful not to provide a precise definition of the political solution he envisions, talking instead about equality before the law, freedom, and independence. This is the area where the two nations failed so abysmally, he says. They have not managed to convince each other of the need to live together. Perhaps, he hopes, next year will be better.

[Frayj] I want to conclude by wishing the people in Israel a happy new year, a year of peace for everybody in this holy land, a year that will bring prosperity, fertility, and peace of mind, peace of heart, and peace between the neighbors. I say shana tova to everybody.

Al-Jumayyil Meets Shultz, USSR's Petrovskiy

NC300728 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0455 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Report by Information Ministry representative Antoine 'Awn from New York—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The president's penultimate day in New York can be summarized in a few words: He is using the same Lebanese language with both superpowers. This means that Lebanon demands its right and role to assist in resolving the overall regional and international issues.

President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy. What happened during each of these meetings? Members of the Lebanese delegation reveal that the meeting with Shultz ended with a clear understanding of U.S. and Lebanese views. Shultz began by raising the issue of terrorism, which is afflicting more than one state, and the need for cooperation to eliminate it. President al-Jumayyil responded by saying that Lebanon is also a victim and hostage of terrorism. In order to deal with it in Lebanon, the United States and the other big powers must assist in establishing a strong central government, because the various forces in Lebanon have been unable to do that. Sources have explained that there was agreement between the two on the need to form such a government soon.

The talks also dealt with Lebanese-Syrian relations and ways to develop them to help Lebanon domestically and with terrorism. Shultz informed President al-Jumayyil that Washington is monitoring the Syrian position from those two standpoints. He expressed his readiness to contribute to efforts to deal with the outstanding issues between Lebanon and Syria. He affirmed that he will contact the Syrian foreign minister in this regard and will work to achieve this objective through U.S.-Syrian rapprochement.

The situation in the south and the need to restore peace there, as well as the economic situation in Lebanon and U.S. assistance, were also raised at the meeting. The parties also discussed the Lebanese presidential elections and the need to ensure a sound constitutional transition without interference. [passage omitted]

The meeting with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Petrovskiy took place from approximately 1800 to 1930. Petrovskiy stated: It is apparent that because of its length, the meeting was useful and fruitful. We exchanged views in detail on issues of interest to the two countries, particularly international issues such as the current Middle East situation and the Lebanese issue. He affirmed that there was agreement on the need for a settlement in the Middle East and for the convening of an international conference soon. Together we understand the need to end the Iraq-Iran war, Petrovskiy said.

In short, there is a good basis for cooperation in the international field and in various international forums to develop Soviet-Lebanese relations.

Regarding the Un emergency force in southern Lebanon and the peacekeeping force in the Gulf, Petrovskiy said that it is necessary to work in various directions to try to ease hotbeds of tension. [passage omitted]

Petrovskiy explained that a visit to Lebanon would depend on circumstances. It has been learned in this regard that President al-Jumayyil has extended an open invitation to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Petrovskiy to visit Lebanon. He has also sent a message to Soviet leader Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

In a meeting with representatives of the U.S. press, television networks, and news agencies, President al-Jumayyil cautioned the U.S. Administration not to deal with Iran through violence to solve the problem of terrorism. He affirmed that U.S. hostage Terry Anderson is still alive, but refused to make a similar confirmation with regard to Terry Waite. [passage omitted]

Libyan Delegation Inspects Palestinian Camps

NC291625 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Informed sources have told the *Central News Agency* that a Libyan delegation succeeded in entering the Burj al-Barajinah camp yesterday as part of its tour of Palestinian camps. These sources added that the purpose of the Libyan delegation's arrival in West Beirut is to check conditions in the camps before extending financial assistance.

The delegation could not enter the Burj al-Barajinah camp because of the security cordon around it. To overcome this obstacle, organizations within the PNSF immediately secured identity cards for the Libyan delegation members. These identity cards, which claim the Libyans are Palestinians, enabled them to enter the camp.

Phalangists React to Party Resignations

NC291424 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] The Phalangist Party Political Bureau held an extraordinary meeting this afternoon and issued the following statement:

Members of the Political Bureau have considered the resignations presented by comrade lawyer Charle Dahdah, member of the party's General Secretariat, and Joseph Abu Khalil, member of the Political Bureau. Having considered the matter, the members decided to make a distinction between the Aministrative and the Political Departments. The following decisions have been made:

1. To accept lawyer Charle Dahdah's resignation from his position as party secretary general;

2. To address a letter of thanks and appreciation to lawyer Dahdah for his work in various party positions;

3. To appoint comrade lawyer Munir al-Haj to the position of party secretary general; and

4. To request that Comrade Joseph Abu Khalil reconsider his resignation.

The Political Bureau has formed a committee to study the matter with Comrade Joseph and convey to him the bureau's wishes.

PSP Reaction to Al-Jumayyil UN Statements

NC291721 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Statement issued by the PSP Political Bureau on 29 September—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] The PSP Political Bureau has considered the new and dangerous development in Amin al-Jumayyil's political role; notably, his unilateral action in relation to the definite guidelines of Lebanese policy and the country's foreign relations and also with respect to resolving the country's domestic problems. Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to the United Nations and the United States to submit the Lebanese case was undertaken without prior consultation with the Lebanese Government and thereby constitutes an example of the circumvention of Lebanese constitutional and political authorities. Such conduct has always been and continues to be a major factor in the dispute among the Lebanese. Al-Jumayyil represents a party to this dispute. Indeed, he represents the party which basically obstructs any possibility of resolving the Lebanese crisis.

The content of the positions which Al-Jumayyil submitted represents a flagrant usurpation of the Lebanese people's will. These stands also contradict the facts with regard to the ongoing disagreement among these people. Al-Jumayyil represents nothing more than a well-known party line. He is responsible for the current division, destruction, and collapse within the country. Amin al-Jumayyil and his party are responsible for Lebanon's feeble position and its inability to confront foreign forces, particularly with respect to the Israeli occupation of part of our country. This is the consequence of his alliance with Israel and its support for him to resist the demands of the vast majority of the Lebanese people.

It is indeed strange that Amin al-Jumayyil should complain of foreign interference in the Lebanese crisis at a time when he is attempting to convince the United States to play a role in determining Lebanon's destiny and the direction that a political solution to the crisis should take.

The PSP Political Bureau condemns U.S. political intervention in internal Lebanese affairs. It particularly denounces the U.S. declared support for Al-Jumayyil's destructive and partitionist policy, and the attempt to link the Lebanese crisis with the interests of the United States, Israel, and Arab reactionaries.

The PSP asserts that Al-Jumayyil's misrepresentation of the Lebanese people's will at the United Nations, and his claim that he represents these people, seeks to remedy Lebanon's ills, and presents its case at international forums, must be confronted with a unified nationalist stand. This stand should be defined by the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the nationalist ministers. They must express in this stand the true position of the majority of the Lebanese people. They must reveal the tragedies and catastrophes caused by Al-Jumayyil's rule and by the Phalangist plan on all levels, particularly the socioeconomic crisis which threatens the destiny and future of Lebanon and its people. [passage omitted]

The PSP Political Bureau has also discussed the successful campaign, organized by our party and the other nationalist parties, to mobilize a symbolic volunteer fighting group to defend Arab Libya's territory against the colonialist onslaught represented by the French-U.S. role in Chad. The Political Bureau asserted that this step is part of the history of the national struggle of Lebanese nationalists, foremost of which is the PSP. The PSP holds the view that the battle is one battle. It believes that confronting the colonialism which is threatening Libya cannot be separated from the confrontation of Israel and its agents in Lebanon and the Arab and Islamic confrontation of the colonialist-imperialist fleets in the Gulf.

Al-Huss Comments on Remarks

NC291418 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Prior to attending the Mansur Palace meeting of parliamentary committees this morning, acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss was asked his opinion of President Amin al-Jumayyil's remarks in New York yesterday. He replied: The president knows, just as we do, that his words do not liberate, unite, or reconcile. They only make him a hero within a certain circle of Lebanese society. If his words were useful, why did he not say these things to us and the world until the last year of his term?

Al-Huss added: The present, inauspicious government has been in existence for 3 and 1/2 years. During that period, we have heard nothing from the president resembling what he is saying today in New York. He has made 11 visits to Damascus during the term of this inauspicious government. He said nothing like what he is saying today before, during, or after these visits. Why? In the last year of his term, what made him do what he has not done before?

Al-Huss continued: Every day we are told that the government is responsible for the situation but the president is not. Does this mean that everything he says now is irresponsible? If so, what is the value of his words? He speaks on behalf of all Lebanon, yet how does he explain to the world that in his country he left behind a government that does not meet and that he is unable to replace with a new government because of a political problem he does not want to deal with, which he is unable to overcome? How does he explain to the world that he left behind a broad political boycott involving half the Cabinet members and political, party, and spiritual leaders outside the Cabinet who represent broad popular bases?

Al-Huss concluded by saying: If the president's ambition is to pass the time until the end of his term, keeping the people anxiously waiting from deadline to deadline, from the Francophone conference to the United Nations, to the scheduled Arab summit, and to other unknown deadlines, we can attest to his success in such efforts. Regrettably, we are knowingly or unknowingly helping him to achieve his purpose. He is doing what he likes because he has the initiative by virtue of his position. As for us, we seem to think it is heroic to cover up for him and to go along with him until the end of his term. This is what we are actually doing, knowingly or unknowingly. We would not have complained about this state of affairs had we not seen that the heroism of the president in New York, just like the heroism of ministers in Beirut, is built upon the ruins of the Lebanese man, his dignity, and his livelihood.

'Fierce Clashes' in Shatila Camp 29 Sep

NC291557 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] A day which began in a calm atmosphere has not remained so. Clashes were reported on the Al-Shiyah and 'Ayn al-Rummanah combat lines this afternoon, before abating later. Marun al-Misk Street in Al-Matahin and Rosaline Harb Street came under intensive machinegun fire.

In another development, fierce clashes broke out on all of the axes of Shatila camp at 1615. The fighting began when gunmen inside Shatila fired at Amal Movement positions. The fighting, which is still going on, has intensified, with medium-caliber weapons and rockets being used.

Security sources have attributed the fighting in Shatila to disputes between gunmen loyal to Yasir 'Arafat and those belonging to the PFLP. The fighting is continuing and the Palestinians are firing from inside the camp. According to security sources, the Amal Movement is not responding to the source of the fire. Six Palestinians are said to have been injured thus far.

Fire Exchanged 30 Sep

NC300917 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tension continues on the Shatila camp lines where Amal and Palestinian gunmen are trading machinegun fire. An artillery shell landed inside the camp this morning.

A PFLP spokesman in Damascus this morning denied reports on clashes between the PFLP and the Fatah Movement inside Shatila Camp yesterday. He claimed that the PFLP is continuing its efforts to contain the consequences of the problem that developed into an armed clash, which Amal immediately exploited.

Resistance Attacks Israeli, Lahd Positions

NC291728 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Resistance fighters have attacked a position manned by agent Lahd militia in Jabal al-Rafi' near Jazzin, destroying a machinegun emplacement, setting the position on fire, and damaging a military vehicle. Agent Lahd's radio admitted the operation, saying that the position had sustained material damage.

In another development, a security report has said that a landmine exploded under a military vehicle belonging to agent Lahd militia inside a training camp in the Abal Safi area of Jazzin at 1300 today. Musa Salim Harb and Corporal Ibrahim Gharib were killed as a result.

Meanwhile, the Forces of the Deprived issued a statement today in which it said that one of its groups had used rockets and automatic weapons to attack the Al-Bayyadah position held by Israeli and agent Lahd forces at dawn today. The members of the group waged a heroic 15-minute battle with the men in the position. They succeeded in penetrating the earthen barrier, destroying an armored car, damaging a jeep, and killing or wounding at least 15 men in the position.

The statement added that another group had used rockets to attack the Jabal Humayyid position in the Al-Qawzah area. The rockets hit their targets and fire was seen raging in the position. The enemy radio admitted the operation, claiming that only one of its occupation soldiers had been killed and three Lahd militiamen seriously wounded.

Meanwhile, Lahd militiamen fired approximately 40 shells from their position in Tallat al-Huqban at the outskirts of Haris, Kafra, and Yatar yesterday evening and at noon today. One of the shells fell only 2 meters from the Nepalese UNIFIL position south of Haris but did not explode.

Bra'shit came under machinegun fire for 1 hour from the hills of Bra'shit and Bayt Yahun at 1300 today, causing fires in olive groves.

Israeli Warplanes Fly Over East Sidon 29 Sep

NC291545 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew at a low altitude over areas east of Sidon from 1245 until 1400 today.

Afghanistan

Diplomats Report Recent Mujahidin Activities

BK291645 Hong Kong AFP in English 1621 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 29 (AFP)—Soviet troops have withdrawn from some exposed bases in Afghanistan because improved rebel air defences makes re-supply difficult, Western diplomats here said Tuesday [29 September]. Many of the soldiers are now concentrated in Dar ol Aman, a big Soviet base just outside Kabul, the diplomats said.

The troops are returning from bases such as Mehtarlam, in northern Laghman, and other areas where the rebels, or mujahidin, equipped with Stingers and blow-pipe anti-aircraft missiles, have increased their pressure. The improved guerrilla air defences have led to a decline in the Soviet use of aircraft in the eight year-old war in Afghanistan, experts on Afghan affairs recently said.

Besides facing the problem of re-supply, the Soviets were finding it "too difficult" to defend the bases and the high command has resorted to an unusual mid-summer withdrawal, one analyst said.

The diplomats said the mujahidin last week shot down two jets near Kabul's Bagram Base and a helicopter carrying an Afghan Army colonel, who died in the attack.

The mujahidin, fighting an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops backing the Kabul regime, have also mined a large strip of land from Qarghah Lake near the capital to the town of Paghman, diplomats said. A military jeep hit a mine in the area killing four people, they said.

But a similar strategy is being adopted by the Soviets in their bid to stop guerrilla infiltration. A high-flying aircraft last week dropped thousands of anti-personnel mines in the Sang Lech Valley, the diplomats said. The valley, extending northward from Wardak along the Paghman Range, is a key supply route for mujahidin operating in the Paghman area. The diplomats expected that the mines would hamper, but not preclude, mujahidin use of the valley for re-supply and refitting.

Five Soviet advisers were kidnapped in eastern Afghanistan's Jaji Meydan last week, the diplomats said. Quoting reliable sources, they said intensive house-to-house searches by troops failed to provide clues.

A Soviet helicopter, in apparent retaliation, attacked a passenger bus killing 16 people and wounding 17, they added.

The mujahidin's pressure on Kabul itself increased last week and their operations expanded towards Paghman, the diplomats said. Rocket and mortar attacks punctuated by bomb explosions continued in and around Kabul, they said.

One bomb ripped through the state-owned Bakhtar Airlines office, killing up to eight people. A rocket hit Kabul's Deh Mazang District killing four people, while several sources heard explosions north of Kabul last Thursday [24 September], the diplomats reported.

Diplomats in Kabul were said to have seen a 60 metre (200 feet) high plume of black smoke and dust near a Soviet base behind Kabul airport. Howitzers at the base, with their barrels vertical, began firing to the north-west, they added, but details were not available.

One rocket narrowly missed the home of important party leader Abdul Rahim Hatef in the western Kabul district of Karte Se, the diplomats said, and a bomb was discovered and defused in the Trade Ministry office adjoining the Soviet Embassy.

Fighting also intensified in northern Konduz Province, resulting in three days' closure of the main Salang highway linking Kabul with Moscow, they added.

Afghan Communist Party leader Najibullah narrowly survived an assassination attempt in Konduz last month, they said, but gave no details.

According to Afghan sources, heavy fighting in Konduz has caused widespread destruction of orchards, besides significantly reducing harvesting prospects for the crops that remain.

1,000 Troops Defect; CP Official Killed

LD291744 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 29, IRNA—One thousand Afghan Muslim soldiers defected to the Afghan mujahidin belonging to the Jamiyat-e Eslami Afghanistan in Kashan Governorate of Herat Province on 18 September together with their commander Arbab Teimuri [spelling as received] sources close to the mujahideen announced today.

The sources said the soldiers brought with them 1,000 light machine guns, 13 heavy machine guns, three howitzers as well as 100 tons of foodstuff.

Meanwhile, Afghan mujahidin killed the political head of Afghanistan Communist Party in Kunar Province Davoud Sarhaddi [spelling as received] during their operations late September. They also captured ten government troops including two officers, said the sources.

India

Troops Clash With Pakistani Forces

BK291635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Indian troops have successfully repulsed battalion size attacks by Pakistani troops on Indian post on the (Taltora) ridge of Siachen area. The attacks at the height

of 19,000 feet were launched 3 nights during the last week. Defense Ministry sources said the attacks were preceded by a very heavy concentration of artillery fire. Rockets and missiles were also used by the Pakistani troops.

The sources said Pakistani units have suffered very heavy casualties in these operations. Indian troops in repulsing the attacks have also had casualties. Sources said these were much lighter as compared to the Pakistani losses.

Defense Ministry Spokesman on Attack

BK300757 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 30 (AFP)—Reports here that 150 Pakistani troops died trying to capture Indian positions in disputed Kashmir last week signalled the worst fighting in the glacier region for years.

India's Defence Ministry spokesman said that in "successfully repulsing" three nights of missile and rocket attacks Indian troops inflicted "heavy casualties." He said Indian troops suffered "much lighter" casualties, but he did not give figures.

The *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported from Srinagar in Kashmir that about 150 Pakistanis had died, but gave no toll for the Indian side.

The agency said battalion-sized assaults (about 900-1,000 men) took place Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights on Indian outposts at the Sia La, Indira Col, Bilafond and Saltora passes, at about 6,300 metres (20,670 feet).

The defence spokesman who asked not to be named, said the simultaneous attacks followed heavy artillery, rocket and missile fire.

The Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi had no immediate reaction to the reports.

Indian defence commentators said it was the first time in three years that Pakistani troops had tried in strength to dislodge Indians from positions overlooking the four passes which offer the main access to the Siachen glacier and a back door into the Ladakh District.

PTI said it was one of the worst border incidents since 1983 when Pakistani troops first tried to take control of the glacier. But no figures were immediately available of losses at that time.

Isolated exchanges of fire are regularly reported from the border area, but casualties claimed in official statements are usually limited to single figures. PTI said sporadic clashes had been continuing for the last two months.

According to official figures released last summer, a total of some 150 people had died in fighting along the line of control since May 1985. An unspecified number also died in avalanches and bad weather.

Authoritative Indian defence sources said Indian troops still held all the outposts after completely routing the Pakistani attackers.

The official defence spokesman said India was ready to repulse any further attacks, although there had been no further hostilities for the last three days during which bodies were retrieved by Pakistan.

India still sought friendly relations with Islamabad, he added.

The defence sources said the Indian Government was waiting for Pakistan to release its version of the fighting and its casualty figures before it would officially announce its losses.

Defence Minsitry sources said India had rushed reinforcements to the area.

Observers said that with Pakistan's cricket team in New Delhi for the world cup, New Delhi did not want to blow up the incident.

Kashmir, which borders both Pakistan and China, has been disputed over by New Delhi and Islamabad since independence in 1947. Pakistan currently holds the northern third of the original state.

Pakistan sought control of Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, in the aftermath of partition and the two countries fought again in 1965 over what had been a princely state under the British Raj [rule].

A line of control delineated bilaterally in the Simla agreement following further hostilities in 1971 is still the subject of clashes.

India and Pakistan agreed to regular consultations in December 1985 in a bid to improve ties. Closed-door talks in June last year failed to produce any tangible results.

India and China also dispute the Kashmir border and have held several rounds of talks since 1981, following their brief war in 1962. India claims more than 375,00 square kilometres (14,500 sq miles) of Chinese-held territory adjacent to Ladakh and Aksai Chin, which Beijing captured in 1962.

China claims some 129,000 square kilometers (51,600 square miles), including a sizeable part of the north-east Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh and some of Sikkim.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Kill 9, Wound 4

BK300525 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] In Punjab, nine persons were killed and four injured in separate incidents of terrorist activity in Amritsar and Gurdaspur Districts last night. According to an officia spokesman in Amritsar, six persons were shot dead and one injured when six terrorists armed with automatic weapons in groups of two opened fire indiscriminately.

Meanwhile, the Faridkot police have arrested eight terrorists during a raid in the district. The arrested include a self-styled lieutenant general, an area commander of the so-calle guerrilla regiment, and two self-styled area commanders of the so-called Khalistan Liberation Force.

Iran

Greek Ship Hit by a 'Unidentified' Craft

NC300611 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 0500 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] A Greek tanker was attacked late last night in the Persian Gulf by a small unidentified craft which launched 10 missiles against the vessel and then immediately withdrew. According to *Reuter* and UPI, shipping sources in the Gulf and Lloyds in London have confirmed the attack, which took place around midnight while the Greek tanker was about 50 miles away from the coast of Abu Dhabi. Sustaining only minor damage, the 38,629-ton *Koriana* is now heading toward Abu Dhabi under its own power. Gulf shipping sources said that the *Koriana* skipper had radioed to U.S. warships for aid, but the United States has not confirmed receiving any such message. There were no casualties.

Reuter and UPI report that the craft which carried out the attack appears to be Iranian and sailed from a small island in the region.

Velayati Letter to Security Council

LD291156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Following the U.S. attack on an Iranian supply ship in the Persian Gulf, the following letter was sent by Foreign Minister Velayati to Dr (Oyd Asamua), president [as heard] of the UN Security Council.

The letter reads in part: On 21 September 1987, a U.S. helicopter gunship attacked without any warning an Iranian commercial vessel, the *Iran-Ajr*. As a result of this aggressive and unlawful act, a number of the crew were martyred and the rest were taken hostage by U.S. forces. The policy of fanning the flames of the war that was started by Iraq and that has been constantly supported and encouraged by the United States, has brought the situation in the entire region to a dangerous and explosive state as a result of the recent U.S. aggression. In the dangerous present conditions, I wish to draw your attention and the attention of the Security Council to the following points:

The Islamic Republic of Iran has no choice but to look for an appropriate and effective response. In any case, full responsibility for this situation and its consequences rests with the U.S. Government.

Resolution No 598 has been clearly violated, and the United States has been toying with peace and security in the region and with the decision of the Security Council. The recent U.S. aggression is another serious attempt to obstruct the recent efforts of the secretary general.

This U.S. aggression, a violation of the letter and the spirit of the UN Charter, has placed a serious and undeniable responsibility on the Security Council to condemn this aggressive act by the United States and to take the necessary measures to put an end to such criminal acts.

Majlis Speaker, Khamene'i on Gulf Situation

LD300730 Tehran IRNA in English 0721 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday that extensive efforts of the U.S. and its allies to uphold the Iraqi regime is likely to place them in a direct confrontation with the Iranians in the Persian Gulf.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani was speaking to a group of combatants who have travelled from war fronts to Tehran on foot to meet the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that of course the U.S. and its allies were not expected to be insane to the extent to get involve in a direct confrontation with "martyrdom-seeking" combatants.

"But this assumption is not impossible and there is a possibility for this confrontation," said Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council.

Iran, he added, had prepared herself for this confrontation and was determined to employ all her potentials, if deemed necessary, to give a suitable response to minor mischievous acts in the Persian Gulf waters.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the stance adopted by Iranian officials at the recent U.N. General Assembly—identification of the aggressor prior to a ceasefire—did not please international arrogance. Therefore, he added, a vast political attempt had been made by imperialism against Iran.

On an arms embargo against Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that by manufacturing large portions of her warfare requirements and using munitions seized from the enemy Iran only obtained a small part of her arms needs from other sources. This small part, he said, would not be affected by the arms embargo.

However, the Majlis speaker said, Iran considers this move as a political attempt against herself and would take a proper attitude towards it.

The group later met with President 'Ali Khamene'i. He said to them that U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is a "big mistake" and its criminal act in attacking the Iranian ship "even a bigger blunder"

Islam today, the president said, has disproved military and political calculations of international arrogance and is not now solely in the hearts of the peoples but also manifests in their struggles.

The world is gradually realising that even if big powers intended to fight with Iran, the Islamic Republic by relying on the firm determination of its nation and on the guidelines of its leader, would bring them down to their knees, he said.

President Khamene'i said that as time passes more and more people world-wide are revising their opinion in support for Iran's demand that to ensure an honorable peace the aggressor party in the war should be first identified and punished.

London Daily on Reactions to U.S. Attack

PM281105 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Sep 87 p 2

['Imad al-Din Adib article: "American Warning!"]

[Text] Will the incident involving the clash between the Americans and the Iranians in Gulf waters merely be an isolated incident, or was it the first shot in direct military confrontation between the two countries?

The information available on the incident confirms that the Americans did not hesitate in clashing with the Iranian vessel, which was said to have been trying to plant mines in the Gulf, threatening tankers.

So the U.S. instructions to naval units in the Gulf are clear and specific: Engage any maritime target not only carrying out aggression, but also taking measures that might threaten an aggressive act.

There is a big difference between the two cases. The decision to fire at the Iranian vessel from a U.S. naval helicopter northeast of Bahrain was not only a military message but also a political message to the Iranian decisionmakers just a few hours before Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i's speech at the UN General Assembly. The American message to the Iranians is clear: Behave or else!

No one can anticipate whether the Iranians understand the meaning of this message or whether this will be exploited by the Iranian internal security forces, Revolution Guards, and exaggerators in Tehran, joined by a team of dubious people such as Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani?

Logic says that Iran, in view of international boredom, international power moves, preparations for an Arab summit, and the firing on the Iranian vessel, will soften its attitude.

The Iranian attitude during the coming few days will show exactly how Iran will play the game to extricate itself from the dilemma: accept or reject the international resolution; cease fire or continue tension; negotiate with Iraq, with its present regime, or procrastinate; avoid direct or indirect confrontation with the United States or work against it; continue or discontinue the tanker war.

Iran thought that by embarking on the tanker war it had chosen the right method to threaten the world without directly clashing with it. However, this method must be limited and controlled, as its indefinite continuation would cause any rational power to lose its nerve and force it to adopt a position against Iran.

The incident of the U.S. helicopter firing at the Iranian boat is a clear "warning" which Iran has to accept or reject.

What will Iran do? The answer lies in Tehran, within internal balances.

Spokesman Comments on Weinberger's Remarks

LD291710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of our country, referring to remarks made by the U.S. war minister, Weinberger, in Bahrain, stated: Weinberger has raised meddlesome and hostile issues that contravene all international rules and regulations, as well as the guarantees made in the Algiers accord. His remarks on the possibility of further U.S. attacks against Iranian vessels by the United States is a clear indication of the adventurist nature of the clique ruling the United States and their goals in intensifying the crisis in the Persian Gulf and making international shipping insecure.

He added: As we stated and forecast earlier, the presence of foreign forces, particularly the interventionist U.S. forces, will increase tension and clashes in the sensitive Persian Gulf region. Even though the Islamic Republic of Iran has the determination and capability to oppose

such aggressions, the trend of U.S. intervention and its adventurist moves serve as a warning to other countries of the region to either unquestioningly undertake the burden of U.S. control and military presence in the region, or be a victim of its blackmail.

Tehran Warns of 'Right To Retaliate'

LD290936 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 29 Sep 87

[From "The Sacred Defense Program"]

[Text] It appears that lately Mr Reagan has lost his memory. He does not remember at all the blows he has received from our nation over the past few years. He has learned no lessons. It is amazing that there is not one, single wise man among his advisers to tell him that attacking a cargo ship, killing some of its crew, and eventually sinking the ship, is totally illogical. People are wondering about the wisdom behind such deeds. Maybe Mr Reagan is nostalgic for his acting career days and has decided to wear the uniform of a pirate to attack ships? In any case, we believe that the recent behavior by the Americans indicates that they have lost their mental balance.

Therefore, we would like to address other people of the world who have witnessed this flagrant piracy. We declare to the world that we reserve the right to retaliate. We shall undoubtedly answer this hostile behavior at the right time and the right place. However, we again repeat that the responsibility for the consequences of such actions lies primarily with those individuals who have escalated the crises in the region through their thoughtlessness. While we oppose any tension in the region, at the same time we are not prepared to retract from our principled stands. It is obvious that in defending ourselves, we shall break any hand that tries aggression. We are certain that the people of the world appreciate this just stance and will support our response against hostile actions.

At this point, it is appropriate to address Mr Reagan and his advisers—if they are prepared to listen to reason—that they should abandon their acts of adventurism before it is too late. They are advised to set sail from the Persian Gulf back to Yankee land before they sink in this whirlpool.

Tehran on Dangers of U.S. Strategy in Gulf

LD291330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1135 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Station commentary: "Who Will Be Hurt as a Result of the Tense Situation in the Persian Gulf?"]

[Text] The U.S. defense secretary's visit to the Persian Gulf region and Egypt ended yesterday. He arrived in the Persian Gulf region at a time when the Iran-Iraq war is going through sensitive military and diplomatic stages. Militarily—because of the tension created in the Persian Gulf by the United States in order to protect the Iraqi regime and to support reactionary regimes like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait—the possibility of this tension becoming a full-scale war, with the participation of all present in the region, increases with every second.

From a diplomatic standpoint, our country's statesmen have been able to prevent the United States' hostile plans against the Islamic Republic of Iran by putting forward fundamental stands, in terms comprehensible to international organizations.

In view of recent developments, the U.S. defense secretary has arrived in the region as a representative of that country's hegemonistic military efforts. Aside from the fact that Weinberger represents arms companies outside the framework of the government and considering his position in the government, he is a forerunner of the general policies of U.S. policymakers—policies that have been formulated by the Reagan administration. Therefore, his trip to the Persian Gulf and his speeches and talks in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt mainly revolve around the issue of the Iran-Iraq war.

At present, part of U.S. strategy—to block Islamic movements in the region and to defend the existence of the aggressive Iraqi regime—has become so important that the other part of that country's strategy—that is, maintaining security for the export of oil from the region, with the United States' help—has been jeopardized; or, on the basis of analyses by U.S. policymakers, it has become secondary in importance.

The subjects of discussions between the U.S. defense secretary and the Egyptian authorities reveal the current U.S. strategy in the region. In Egypt, on the one hand, he held talks about the Iran-Iraq war and Egypt's aid to Iraq, and, on the other, preparations for the international Arab-Israeli peace conference on the Middle East. The contents of these talks clearly show the United States' efforts to shift the focal point of the crisis from occupied Palestine and the Egyptian-Jordanian-Syrian borders to the Persian Gulf region.

That is why, either because of the use of the carrot and the stick or because of their anti-Islamic and counterrevolutionary nature, the reactionary regional heads of state are supporting this strategy with their financial, logistic, and virtual military aid to Iraq. However, a realistic analysis of the events brings one to the conclusion that to follow a strategy of creating tension in the Persian Gulf will lead to a fire that will burn everybody, and that the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region will be the first to burn in this fire. Finally, to continue this confrontation will lead to U.S. interests being attacked all over the world by revolutionary Muslims.

This is the warning constantly given by our country's leaders to regional countries. However, when these threats become action, it will be very difficult to return to the preconfrontation period.

Indian Muslims Condemn U.S. Moves in Gulf

NC300924 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Telephone report by an unidentified correspondent from New Delhi—recorded]

[Text] As Iraq's imposed war against Iran is entering its 8th year, Muslims and Islamic personalities are holding and delivering speeches analyzing the objectives of the Islamic Republic in its sacred defense and also examining the roots of Iraq's aggression. India has been the site of extensive speeches by Muslim speakers and also of exhibits and ceremonies on these topics.

(Seyd 'Abdullah Bukhari), Friday imam of the New Delhi Congregational Mosque, has prayed for the victory of the fighters of Islam and of the brave Iranian nation led by Imam Khomeyni. He further expressed wishes for greater unity among the world's Muslims. He said: The imposed war has prevented the Islamic Republic of Iran from directing all its resources to secure the world of Islam and Muslims.

Referring to the current Persian Gulf situation and the role of the superpowers—especially that of the United States—in exacerbating the situation in the region, (Imam Bukhari) said: The United States and other world powers cannot be friends of Muslims. They seek only to spread discord and conflict among Muslims and have turned the Persian Gulf into a base for their satanic objectives.

(Seyd 'Ali Taqavi), the Friday imam of the New Delhi Shi'ite Mosque, condemned the presence of the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf. Referring to the nature of international organizations, such as the United Nations and the ICO, and their stands on the imposed war, he said: International organizations have not been sincere in their judgments and have acted unilaterally. Their first step toward a cease-fire should be the identification of the aggressor. He referred to Iraq's use of chemical weapons, a fact confirmed by the United Nations, and stated: The use of chemical weapons is inhuman and contrary to international law. Referring to the recent Tehran visit by the UN secretary general, (Seyd 'Ali Taqavi) stated: Following this visit, Iraq resumed the bombing of Iran's civilian targets, and the United States attacked an Iranian ship in the Persian Gulf. However, nothing was said by any international organization. They pressured Iran to accept the UN resolution instead. In conclusion, the Friday imam of the New Delhi Shi'ite Congregational Mosque noted the bloody incident in holy Mecca and called for continued interest in this crime and in forming a committee to supervise and control the holy shrines.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New Delhi.

Meeting of Friday Imams Continues in Qom

Montazeri Delivers Speech

LD281658 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0033 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Speech by Grand Ayatollah Montazeri at 27 September meeting of Friday imams from all parts of the country in Qom—recorded]

[Excerpts] We seek refuge with God from satan. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to God, the Lord of the worlds. May peace and salutations be upon our Lord and prophet, Ahmad, Abu al-Qasim Mohammad. God's salutations and benedictions be upon the prophet's descendants and all holy saints. God made Ka'bah as His house in Mecca, a place to uplift the people. [Koranic verse]

While welcoming your excellencies, the aytaollahs and hojjats ol-Eslam, the Friday imams from all over the country, who are in charge of teaching religion and tradition, I am grateful for their accepting the invitation from the central secretariat to attend this seminar. I am grateful to you for accepting this great divine responsibility to perform such a significant service in various regions. Of course, you realize that your reward is immense and God shall deliver it to you. There is a saying in the book Osul-e Kafi, to the effect that a scientist whose knowledge brings comfort to the people is more worthy to God than 70,000 people's prayers in the shrine of Imam Reza or his holy sister Ma'sumeh. I am not trying to say that prayer rituals are not good. I am saying that it is a great achievement to serve Islam, the Muslims, and the revolution at this particular time when it has become subjected to attacks from both East and West, when everyone seeks to crush Islam. You, gentlemen, are doing a great service by preaching in cities and keeping the people on the Friday prayers arena, so that they receive instructions in their duties. As I have said before, it is the Friday prayers of the cities which secure the survival of the revolution. I hope that the Friday imams will continue their favor and that the people will attach more importance to these congregations which safeguard the honor of Islam.

I offer my condolences to you, the Friday imams, and to the entire world of Islam over the martyrdom of some esteemed Friday imams who were martyred by some duped individuals. How we miss them at this gathering! I also offer my condolences over the martyrdom of those on the battlefronts and those in the tragic incident at holy Mecca. More than 400 pilgrims of God and guests of the Almighty were ruthlessly martyred in the holy month and in God's sanctuary. The most tragic effect of this incident is that the sanctity of God's house was violated. This is a horrific tragedy.

While offering my condolences to you and to all the ulema and the families of these martyrs, I draw your attention to the point that about 1 billion Muslims remained silent when 2 or 3 million Zionists occupied dear Jerusalem and captured Palestine. About 1 billion Muslims, with all their ulema and resources, have remained indifferent to those who are managing God's house. It is not clear who these people are who are running the house of God. It is a fact that the holy santuary of God belongs to the world of Islam, to all Muslims. God says: I made the Ka'bah for all the people and all people have shares in this sanctuary. [Koranic verse] How amazing to see that the same Fahd who was wearing a cross around his neck in the presence of the British queen and her mother and has become a servant of his harem, has taken the title of custodian of the holy house of God, too. The Al Sa'ud family and Fahd plunder much wealth of the Muslims in order to make palaces for themselves and enjoy a life of revelry. We are all aware of their records in this field. The fact that he wore a cross around his neck in front of the British queen and her mother is a sufficient crime in itself. Then a person like this and his ilk become custodians of the God's house and the world of Islam remains silent. This family destroyed so many holy places. There were so many sacred buildings in Mecca and Medina and other parts of Saudi Arabia. This family destroyed them all and razed them to the ground. Nothing remains of those sites any more. They even wanted to demolish the holy grave of the noble prophet too. They did not dare.

When people cut their losses, that is a profit. This is a place that should be under the supervision of all ulema of Islam. The jursiprudents, the muftis, and the scientific and political personalities of the world of Islam—be they Sh'ite and Sunni, or others—all have the right to manage these holy places. All the ulema from various sects and the muftis should sit and choose a committee to be in charge of these holy places and to safeguard them. The remainder of these holy places are also threatened with destruction.

In addition, Bagi [graveyard for early Islamic figures] was also endangered. Existence [bagi] in name and in words, as well as in a written form, has always been a prerequisite for existing physical terms. [sentence as heard] I hope that this gathering of scholars, hojjats ol-Eslam, and Friday imams of Shi'ites and Sunnis accepts my recommendation to compose a petition with an agreed upon text, or one describing the views of you gentlemen—should there be no common opinion on who should administer the holy places in the future and to whom they belong. This is obviously an issue that all Muslims, whether scholars, muftis, and prominent religious custodians—early Islamic dignitaries were called custodians—should undertake. At least we will have the views held by the gentlemen present here together with their signatures and today's date. Perhaps this would mark the beginning for all ulema, scholars, and everyone who is considering the issues to start thinking about the future of the holy places. As you know, the Israelis are contemplating the idea of a greater Israel, including Kheybar and radiant Medinah in their plans. Those presently ruling in Islamic countries are not thinking of Islam and only worry about themselves. Despite the holy Koran's explicit decrees, and instead of achieving harmony among Islamic countries, they call all the world's infidel countries—such as the United States, Britain, France, and Italy—to the Persian Gulf and to Islamic regions, and draw their attention to the Islamic countries, the wealth, waters, and everything at their disposal. They are this sort of people. [Koranic verse and repetition passage omitted]

I hope that you gentlemen will sign a petition. If you do not all agree on a single petition, then you could each write a separate line stating that in accordance with the regulations of Islam, all Islamic sects should be involved in running the holy house of God, because this concerns all Muslims. Who has said that Fahd should be in charge of the holy house? Why should the Islamic ulema have no say in it? May Almighty God grant the same status to the martyred Friday imams and martyrs of the battlefront as the martyrs of the early Islamic era. And may He grant Muslims the will to unite. May the five sects of Islam join together like five fingers of a hand to become a clenched fist to defeat global blasphemy and Zionism. I beseech God to give us the will for unity, as we have the power and all we need is unity. May God bestow rewards on those serving Islam and Muslims. May He grant us success in performing our duties.

In this great gathering I feel that you gentlemen are illustrious figures and that it would be inappropriate for me to explain everything. However, we are all obliged to explain some points, and we are all in need of instruction. I would like to say something because I was once a Friday imam myself. Maybe for this reason alone I am correct in bringing some points to your lofty attention. Still, I would not wish to issue my own instructions. I would rather repeat the sayings of saints and the Prophet. One of the important points to realize is the fact that in Islam no status of rank is important. People in positions of authority should realize that their status is only a position of responsibility, the responsibility of shouldering a heavy burden. A heavy burden of responsibility is placed on their shoulders. This is their duty. Our lord, Imam 'Ali, in *Nahj al-Balaghah* [a book attributed to 'Ali], quotes a letter written to Ash'ath, who was governor-general of Azarbayjan, that read: This post of responsibility is entrusted to you, and you are there to serve. [passage omitted quoting other similar stories about Imam 'Ali] To summarize, I would say that you should not be led astray by you status.

The second point I would like to make to you gentlemen is this: You should try to make Friday prayer sermons more interesting. You should research and study your sermon before the Friday you are slated to speak. You should realize that your congregation includes people from all strata of society. Not everyone, for instance, is a

peasant. There are university professors, graduates, lawyers, ulema, and other members of society listening to your sermons. Your sermons should be diverse and not limited to slogans and the policy of the day. Of course, you should speak about daily political issues but you should also mention other economic or religious subjects. [passage quoting Imam Reza on this subject and piety omitted]

If you think you may forget your sermons, you can make notes and take them with you. Or you can take a book and read from it and then enlarge on the subject. You do not have to speak about only one subject all the time, for every verse in the Koran is a source on which you can expand. Your sermons should be constructive, so that when the people leave your preaching session, they should feel a transformation within themselves: a psychological, scientific, and ideological transformation. This is a necessity; a sermon should include everything. Even some stories are constructive. You can prepare interesting stories. Your sermons should have everything, and at the same time should not be lengthy and boring. If in Tehran a sermon lasts for 1 hour or 1 and 1/2 hours, it is because Tehran is the capital and the political center of gravity for the country. You can thus deliver shorter sermons in small towns. It is recorded that the sermons of the Prophet and Imam 'Ali lasted only 5 minutes. If you are not happy with such a short sermon then make it last roughly 20 minutes. Be brief, and come to the point quickly. A logical sermon can be summarized.

The next point is that we should try to be sincere in our work. Sincerity is highly valued by God. In your daily life you should live simply. This was practiced by the noble Prophet and the holy imams—may God's peace and salutations be upon them all. I have often said that the ulema should deprive themselves. You should live simply so that enemies cannot find an excuse to criticize you. [Koranic verses on simplicity omitted] Your living standard should be the same as the weakest of people, so that the meek and the poor are not provoked. The situation at present dictates certain precautions. For example, you gentlemen have to have bodyguards and special cars. But even these can be reduced to a minimum. You should be content, and save as much as necessary. [Koranic passage on importance of contentment omitted]

You should be tolerant. All people are not of the same thought or of the same level as you. [passage on need for tolerance omitted] Any intolerance on our part for only keeping those who follow the same line as we do and who share the same views as we, both in politics and in other things—if we keep those and expel all the others then we will be isolated. [sentence as heard] Then we will be a minority and will not be able to achieve anything. We should have the same expansiveness as the holy prophet. From the time he started his mission to its end, which of his disciples did the holy prophet expel? The prophet's disciples followed different lines and had different thoughts, but the prophet kept them right to the end. He valued every one of them, and to every one of them he delegated responsibility according to their capacity. [Koranic verse about two brothers who met Imam Baqir omitted]

If you wish the power of Islam to continue, if you wish the revolution to continue, if you wish to fight against world blasphemy and against international Zionism, you need forces. If you value every Muslim individual, all of them will be your forces, and with them you will be able to confront world blasphemy. However, if we continue putting labels on people, if we make allegations about people, if we engage in revelations and in slandering and intimidating the people and pushing them aside, then no one will be left for us. With what force do we then want to fight against world arrogance? Let us learn from the holy prophet, because the holy prophet worked with different lines, with different thoughts, and valued every one of them according to their capacity. He put every one of them to work according to their ability. This is another point we should bear in mind.

Another point, gentlemen, is that you should try keep busy with religious studies in all regions. Keep the seminaries active according to your ability. You should organize classes and discussions. If you wish to perform every job in the area, then of course, you will be short of time. However, in every town in which you dwell there are a number of ulema and scholars. Cooperate with them, value their work. Delegate a lot of work to them. If you receive certain offers of help, make use of this. Tell them: Sir, I will pay you so much so that you can teach in this school. Sir, I will pay you so much so that you can go every Thursday and Friday night to such and such a village and give religious instruction to the people. To do everything yourselves is impossible, but attach importance to every member of the ulema and the scholars in every region, make use of them, even show some humility toward them. If they are older than you, go to their houses; there is no need for him to come to you and kiss your hands. If you are a Friday imam, it is a great honor. If you are the imam's representative, then of course you are to be respected, but if there is an old, respected man, go to his house, value his words, meet with him and delegate some work to him. The very fact that you attach importance to him will make him feel very gratified and he will obey you and be in harmony with you. Then you can pursue your scholarly occupation, you can study, you can teach.

Today you should study various issues. Today the people who come to your sermons and to your pulpit are not interested merely in the issue of cleanliness and prayers. They may have many problems regarding economic and political issues. They may have certain queries about verses and traditions. They may be students or professors. Today the world is interconnected. Eastern and Western philosophies, eclectic philosophies have filled the minds of our youth. [passage about a nonbeliever meeting an imam omitted]

Another issue is that you should be tolerant of criticism. I have repeatedly said that I receive many letters, some critical, and many of them are signed. I swear by God that I do not get annoyed, but I rejoice that they have warned me about some weaknesses that I have. [Koranic passage omitted] Friday imams, officials, dignitaries, you should not be hurt by criticism. You should even rejoice. If we are displeased by criticism, do you know what will happen? Those who are discerning will sit apart, and you will be surrounded by a number of flatterers and sycophants. Suddenly you will open your eyes and see that all people of character have deserted you. [passage omitted quoting from the letter of Imam 'Ali to Malik Ashtar].

The next point is that it is not necessary to give all the executive work to the ulema or to the seminarians. If there is something that a doctor, an engineer, or a bazaar merchant can do better than you, pay attention to him too. Delegate some work to experts.

The next point is that you must be in contact with the people as much as possible. You cannot put all your time at the disposal of the people, but you should make arrangements to set aside certain times, so that everyone knows that this Friday imam is available 1100-1200, or 1200-1300, or from an hour before sunset to sunset, so that anyone who wishes to see him can come at that time. As for other times, they should know that the gentleman is studying or is otherwise occupied. In brief, you should set aside certain times for the people to come and talk about their problems. You should listen to people, even if you cannot meet their wishes. Then you should discuss the people's needs with officials at the weekly meeting, or biweekly meeting, or monthly meeting which you hold with municipal officials. Even if you just sit together and have a cup of tea, this will bring you closer together and will create affection among you. However, if you keep aloof from one another, this will lead to bitterness. In addition, you should respect the officials but also demand service from them. [repetitive passage omitted]

The officials too should pay attention to the fact that the Friday imams receive many petitions in their region and that the people have high expectations of them. It should not be that the officials pay no heed to the letters or the views of Friday imams. They should know that the people are the main support for the revolution and for the country, and that it is the Friday imams who have kept the people on the scene. Let me say this plainly. The officials should appreciate the Friday imams and should satisfy their demands as much as possible. The people have some expectations of the Friday imans. The officials should try to satisfy the people's demands.

The last point that I want to raise—I have already taken too much of your time and have tired you—is the [Friday imam's] office reply concerning elections. Sometimes a Friday imam says that most certainly such a person should go to the Majlis. This is a kind of imposition. This means that the Friday imam regards himself as the guardian of the people and that the people are incapable of understanding. This is wrong. Fortunately, our people are thoughtful and discerning. The Friday imams should make general comments. They should explain to the people what it is to elect a deputy to the Majlis.

The deputy who goes to the Majlis should defend not only your city. He should also defend Islam and the revolution. In our country's present critical condition, at a time when East and West are active against us, in these stormy times, there are some problems in guiding the revolution and Iran through this tumultuous sea. Those who go to the Majlis should be aware of the politics of the day. They should be aware of the country's problems. They should be aware of economic issues. They should also be believers and be decisive. Deputies should be fully aware of their goals. They should be decisive, eloquent, believing, and wise. Such people should be elected. You should tell the people this, but the people should be free to elect those who believe in Islam and the imamate. You should merely guide them and tell them of religious qualifications.

I have taken a lot of your time, and I apologize to you ayatollahs and Friday imams. I hope that God will bless us with success so that we can guide this ship of Iran to safe shores in this tumultuous sea that has been created for us by East and West. [passage omitted praying for martyrs, Friday imams, and a successful end to the war]

Meshkini Addresses Friday Imams

LD291257 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Speech by Ayatollah Meshkini to gathering of Friday imams at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran on 29 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted on Koranic verse] Illustrious Imam, the supreme source of emulation of the Shi'ites, great leader of the Muslims, shelter and hope of the oppressed people of the world, may our greetings and regards be to you. O Imam, those who are honored to be present here are the honorable Friday imams from throughout the country. O Imam, we are thankful to God who bestowed upon us the honor of repeating this meeting with you. We also express our thanks to your holiness for having taken the trouble of granting us this audience. The brothers who are here are among this nation's elite, among the great ones, the ulema, the pious ones of this nation; they are the object of the respect and affection of the people.

Thanks be to God, they took part in a short seminar that is held each year. In that seminar the issues, duties, difficulties, and responsibilities that fall upon them were discussed. They discussed the duties they have to one another and to the nation and the duties they have toward their creator. They also discussed problems,

raised certain issues, and achieved some successes. We thank God for all this. Now, at the end of this seminar, they had the great honor of being received by your holiness. [passage omitted on the importance of Friday imams]

I find it necessary to make a few points here. O Imam! Yesterday was the last day of War Week. In this meeting, we wish to discuss this in your presence. Under your guidance, the war is a matter of greatest importance to us. Once again, we renew our pledge to your holiness that, no matter how long this war lasts, we know where our duty lies, and we regard a defeat in this war as a defeat for Islam, and a victory in this war as a victory for Islam. God willing, we shall remain steadfast, according to your holiness's orders. We will declare this to others. Even if this war lasts 20 years, we will still remain steadfast because of our attachment to Islam.

We hope God will show his bounty because of the steadfastness of this nation and will grant us victory in the near future.

In conclusion, I feel dutybound to make another point, otherwise, I have not done my duty on that issue. O Imam! We regard bloody Friday as a great tragedy for Islam and Muslims. They killed a number of God's disciples in the house of God. They killed a number of saints—I swear by God—in His house. They killed a number of friends of God in that place. We wish the matter had ended there. The massacre of God's saints is one issue and one tragedy, and the violation of the sanctity of God's house is a greater crime.

One of the brothers' successes in the seminar was that they issued an important and well-documented resolution and signed it. God willing, it will be brought to your honored attention. All of us here are united in saying this sentence in your presence: Regarding this matter, we will not flout that which has been ordered us. May God bestow patience upon us.

I will not trouble you further. Our eyes, our ears, our hearts are prepared for your holiness's sublime guidance. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Seminar Passes Resolution

LD290855 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., Sept. 29, IRNA—A two-day seminar of all-Iran Friday prayers leaders, the third of its kind since 1979, concluded with a ten-point resolution here Monday.

In their resolution Friday prayers leaders renewed their allegiance to Imam Khomeyni and announced readiness to fulfill the imam's orders until the banner of Islam is hosted throughout the world.

They deplored the U.S.-sponsored crime in Mecca which was committed by the Saudi regime, stressing that it was a good proof to the incompetency of this U.S. lackey regime in administering the affairs of the holy shrines.

The resolution called for the freedom from the Saudi rule of the holy Muslim shrines in Mecca and Medina and their joint administration by the Muslim world.

It also condemned U.N. Resolution No 598 and stressed that the only way to end the war and establish peace is to try and punish the aggressor (Saddam Husayn).

The resolution voiced full support for the unequivocal and conclusive speech of President 'Ali Khamene'i at the U.N. General Assembly last week.

It condemned recent U.S. attack on the Iranian cargo and supply ship and said that these pressures not only would not force Muslims to retreat but would rather make them persistent in taking revenge of international arrogance led by the U.S..

The resolution appreciated efforts of the government and officials of the judiciary in fighting corruption and for the establishment of justice and security in the country.

The participants at the seminar announced their readiness to hold an international congress of ulema and scholars of various religions from throughout the world to study implications of the massacre of Hajj pilgrims in Mecca and make final decision in this connection.

Khomeyni Meets Khamene'i, Friday Imams

LD291130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] At the end of the third nationwide seminar of Friday imams from around the country, all the Friday imams taking part in the seminar, Shi'ites and Sunnis, together with Ayatollah Meshkini, the Friday imam of Qom, and Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Friday imam of Tehran, and members of the Central Secretariat of Friday Imams, were received by Imam Khomeyni in Hoseyniyeh Jamaran.

During this meeting, Ayatollah Meshkini first submitted a report on the seminar proceedings. Then the imam of the ummah made a speech about the need to maintain unity and solidarity among the people in supporting Islam, Muslims, and oppressed people around the world.

Tehran Reports Interview With SAIRI Chairman

LD271955 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 87

[Text] Our report concerns the views of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] on the future struggles for the liberation of Iraq and the military expedition of the United States and its allies to

the Persian Gulf. These views were made yesterday in the course of an interview between our reporter and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, the chairman of SAIRI, on the occasion of War Day and the future of Iraq. We draw your attention to this:

[Unidentified correspondent] The SAIRI chairman, in connection with the objectives and reasons of the Zionist Iraqi regime in attacking Iran, said: Taking note of the anti-Islamic nature of this regime, global arrogance compelled it to go to war against the Islamic Revolution so that it could prevent the development of Islam in the Arab countries. Moreover, by coming forward with the issue of the war of Arabs against Iranians, it could draw the Arab countries into confronting the Islamic Republic.

He added: Moreover, the Iraqi regime always had some ill intentions toward Iran and wanted to control Khuzestan and other frontier regions. Also, the extensive Islamic movements that evolved and were led by Martyr Ayatollah Sadr caused the Zionist regime of Iraq to attack Islamic Iran so that Iraq could pretend that the Islamic movements inside Iraqi territory were linked to the outside and not indigenous movements.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim stressed that all these aims and motivations have been defeated by the movement of the Islamic Revolution and the stances adopted by Imam Khomeyni, and also that the Iraqi regime has even been disgraced among the Arabs. He said: This regime, which has today become weak and impotent, claims to want peace in order to save itself. In connection with U.S. intervention in the aggressor war and its support for the Iraqi regime, he said: The United States decided to take direct military action and thus intervene against the Islamic Revolution in order to prevent the fall of Saddam, who is subjected to the crushing blows of the forces of Islam. Under the pretext of establishing security in the Persian Gulf, the United States brought its forces here. In spite of this, it should be understood that the United States will also be defeated in this latest venture.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim next expounded on the SAIRI programs [passage indistinct] in extensive cooperation with the Kurds of Iraq's northern regions and is mobilizing them in the struggle against the Iraqi regime. Among the programs of this assembly are the establishment of unity between forces in opposition to the regime of Iraq, the holding of the conference on solidarity with the people of Iraq, and contact with international organizations and assemblies aimed at explaining the stances and positions of the Iraqi nation.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, explaining that more than 3,000 military personnel of Iraq have been martyred on the instructions of the rulers of Iraq, said: The number of prisoners also has at times reached 200,000; they have been arrested on charges of jihad activities against the Iraqi regime, or for refusing to go to the battlefronts.

At the conclusion of this interview, in a message addressed to the Muslim nation of Iraq, the SAIRI chairman emphasized the necessity for all Muslims to stand beside the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: We are fighting not only the 'Aflaqi regime in Iraq, but also the arrogance supporting that regime. He said: It is only with steadfastness, devotion, and self-sacrifice that victory will be achieved. The offspring of the Muslim nation of Iraq should know that if they stand besides the Iranian nation, Saddam's regime will fall and the forces of arrogance in the region will be defeated.

Mobilization Forces Mark War Week Ceremonies

LD282022 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] On the occasion of the 7th and last day of Holy Defense Week, named War and Mobilization Day, resistance maneuvers by 85 battalions of mobilization forces of offices, bases and factories of Tehran Province were held in the 12,000-seat Azadi Stadium auditorium.

According to a report by our correspondent, an eight-point resolution was read during the ceremonies, which was approved by chants of "God is great" from the mobilization forces. Part of the resolution states: We, the self-sacrificing mobilization members of Sarallah's I Corps, while reaffirming our allegiance to the imam of ummah, announce that we are prepared to implement Islamic laws to the last man and the last drop of blood. In addition, we participants in the resistance maneuvers, stress the need for the decisive implementation of the orders of the imam of ummah, commander in chief of the forces, as well as the declarations of the deputy leader, His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. We also stress the need for continuous crushing operations across the fronts of the imposed war. Moreover, we announce our readiness to be dispatched to the war fronts of right against wrong until the liberation of Karbala' and the Muslim people of Iraq.

Another part of the resolution states: We will keep the Persian Gulf—just like the destiny-making Ohod war [a war fought by the prophet]—for the warriors of Islam. Any plot of international oppression in the region will be faced with the strong defense and crushing blows of the martyr-seeking Mobilization forces. The resolution continues: We condemn the contrived UN Security Council's resolution which is aimed at safeguarding the illegitimate interests of the superpowers, the desperate efforts of the arch satan in the Persian Gulf aimed at creating tension, and the attack against the commercial vessel, for which we demand decisive action.

During the ceremonies, Hasan Ruhani, Tehran Majlis deputy and head of the Majlis Defense Committee, gave a speech noting the superpowers' desire for the material and moral wealth of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He talked about the military progress made in Iran during the war years, and said: The majority of arms and

ammunition needed at the fronts are now being produced by Iranian workers in our industries. The Islamic Republic of Iran, by producing all types of surface-to-surface missiles, antitank missiles, and other weapons needed by the fronts, has brought about a great change. He added: If the world realizes that the Islamic Republic of Iran has millions of self-sacrificing mobilization forces, their covetous eyes will no longer focus on this country and its revolution. Today, the superpowers want to impose another crisis on us. We forecast this. We are not the aggressor and do not want a crisis in the region. We will respond strongly to U.S. mischief in the Persian Gulf.

Reporters Shown 'Liberated Areas' in Al-Faw

LD300556 Tehran IRNA in English 0545 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Sept. 30, IRNA—A group of journalists and cameramen from Nicaragua, Spain, Italy, Japan and Indonesia inspected the liberated areas in Al-Faw Tuesday and shot films and field reports.

An Iranian military commander said to the reporters that Muslim combatants were determined to continue the war to an eventual victory. He said that the Muslim forces were ready to foil the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam in the Persian Gulf.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

IRGC Artillery Shells Basra

LD291706 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] The Joint Staff of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has announced that following recent mischiefs by the ruling Baghdad regime, the artillery of the fighters of the Armed Forces of the IRGC brought Iraqi industrial and economic centers in the provinces of (Al-Imarah) and Basra under heavy fire. The report states that the artillery of the forces of Islam is maintaining heavy and intensive fire on tens of industrial and economic centers, including factories, oil refineries, pumping stations, power stations, and high-tension pylons. Vast areas of these establishments and centers are ablaze.

Communique No 2,974

LD291626 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—The southern Iranian port cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr were shelled by Iraqi long-range artillery fire Monday and Tuesday as a result of which several civilians were martyred and wounded and a number of houses damaged, said a military communique.

In its Communique Number 2974, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Tuesday that Iranian long-range artillery fire heavily shelled Iraqi eco-military centers along the central sector of the war fronts Monday, inflicting substantial losses on them.

Iraqi patrol convoys, attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Qasr-e Shirin and Mehran, western sector, Monday sustained considerable casualties and were forced to flee by the artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces opened heavy fire on Iraqi positions in the southern fronts Monday, killing a number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze 10 gun emplacements and four vehicles of theirs.

Elsewhere, in the battlefields of the Iraqi-imposed war, Iraqi troops suffered several casualties and parts of their fortifications were set afire in artillery duels with Iranian forces.

In Helaleh, southern sector, a number of Iraqi vehicles were set ablaze and movement of enemy motorized units was checked by Iranian artillery fire.

The naval forces of the Islamic Republic, in addition to successfully carrying out all their defensive missions in the Persian Gulf, intercepted and searched a cargo ship and an oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no Iraqi-destined goods aboard them, concluded the communique.

Baghdad TV Station Blown Up 'Last Month'

LD291124 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—Blast of a bomb planted by the Iraqi Muslim Mujahidin last month in the building of Baghdad radio and TV in Salahiyah region, has set ablaze the building and destroyed large parts of its technical equipments.

The weekly *Al-Amal al-Eslami* reported that the extent of the damage has been to the degree that the Iraqi regime has been forced to use another relay center outside of Baghdad since the explosion.

In other operations, Muslim Mujahidin planted a bomb in the general tax department setting the building on fire.

Muslim Mujahidin in Nasiriyah ambushed a column of Iraqi forces last month killing and injuring a number of enemy forces and seizing their munitions.

Iraqi Muslim Mujahidin and Muslim forces who have defected the Iraqi army with the collaboration of tribesmen in Nasiriyah region have inflicted fatal blows on the Iraqi forces and government centers.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Bakhtaran, Lorestan

LD291101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] This morning intruding planes of the Iraqi warmongering regime violated the airspace of Bakhtaran Province and bombed the village of Cheqa Hammam. As a result of this bombing, which took place at 1030 this morning, two farmers harvesting their crops were wounded.

In continuation of their mischievous deeds today, enemy planes also attacked an industrial labor unit in the suburbs of Tehran, causing some damage.

At 1223 today, intruding enemy planes attacked an industrial workers' area in Lorestan Province. As a result, several workers were either martyred or wounded. So far, no report has been received on the exact number of dead and wounded from today's enemy air raids.

Pakistan

Junejo Briefs Newsmen on New York Talks

BK281159 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has expressed confidence that the Afghanistan resolution embodying a call for early withdrawal of foreign forces from that country will receive wide-ranging support in the UN General Assembly this year as before. The resolution is expected to come up for vote by the middle of next month. The prime minister was addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi today soon after his return home from New York where he addressed the UN General Assembly and held meetings with world leaders. He said the world leaders he met were very clear on the issue of Afghanistan and they had assured him of their full support to Pakistan's well-known stand.

The prime minister said although the Kabul regime has intensified its propaganda at the world body this year, it is not likely to make much difference to Pakistan's support by the world community.

On Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said he had explained to President Reagan Pakistan's position and assured him that Pakistan had no intention of making a bomb. He also told the American president that Arshad Parvez's case [for allegedly trying to export maraging steel to Pakistan] was part of a campaign to deprive Pakistan of U.S. assistance. He made it clear that there was no need for Pakistan to jeopardize its relations with the United States by importing the material. This material could easily be obtained from elsewhere if needed. President Reagan took note of these facts.

He also told Mr Reagan that a democratic government was now in power in Pakistan and they expected the United States to provide greater assistance to strengthen the democratic process.

About his proposal for convening a UN-sponsored conference on denuclearization of South Asia, the prime minister hoped for a good response from the countries of the region.

On the Gulf, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo reiterated Pakistan's position for resolving [the issue] in an amicable way within the perimeters of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Further on News Conference

BK281623 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has expressed confidence that the resolution on Afghanistan calling for an immediate withdrawal of foreign forces there will receive massive support at the UN General Assembly this year, as in the past. He was addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi after his return home from New York today. He said the world leaders he met in New York have assured him of their wholehearted support for Pakistan's just stand on the issue.

He said President Reagan also assured him that his country will cooperate with Pakistan in its efforts to achieve an early solution to the issue so that the 3 million Afghan refugees currently staying in Pakistan can return to their homes with honor and safety. The U.S. President has assured him that his government will also try to ensure progress in this issue during talks with the Soviet Union on regional issues. The two sides agreed that there has been no progress in the recent round of indirect Geneva talks on the issue [words indistinct] of the Kabul regime. This was because the Kabul regime's response there was considerably less than expected.

Referring to an interview published in *The New York Times* citing a proposal by him that a UN peace force be deployed in Afghanistan after the Soviet pullout, the prime minister said that this is not a formal proposal, but what he thinks. He said that what he intended to say is that an independent and (?limited force) should be present to deal with the situation if it worsens during the pullout of Soviet troops. The United Nations can provide a force to meet this requirement until a representative government in Afghanistan is in the hands of the people of Afghanistan, including those who have taken shelter outside their country. They can elect their representatives through their traditional assembly [Jirga]. [Passage omitted]

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for Beijing
BK250116 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Sep 87

[Text] A 10-member Pakistani parliamentary delegation has left Karachi for Beijing on a 8-day visit to China. They were invited by the Chinese National People's Congress. National Assembly Speaker Hamid Nasir Chatha, who is leading another parliamentary delegation in Tokyo, will join this delegation in Beijing as its leader. The parliamentary delegation will also visit Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Jilin.